

Has every LGBT person come out?
Not much going on in San Francisco
for annual National Coming Out Day.
page 12

Wide open supervisor race
District 5 candidates square off
on budget and homeless issues.
page 14



Splendid seaman
Nathan Gunn is 'Billy
Budd' for SF Opera.
see Arts section



BAY AREA REPORTER

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Serving the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender communities since 1971



Jane Philomen Cleland

A big Cheer for the Castro

The always popular Castro San Francisco pep band put on a show during the Castro Street Fair Sunday, October 3. Steve Gaynes, president of the fair board, told the Bay Area Reporter that cool weather led to a drop in attendance, meaning less in gate donations, and beer sales were lower, but an estimated 80,000 people turned out to walk the streets, catch live entertainment, and enjoy local artisans.

Two decades later, bathhouse debate still resonates

by Matthew S. Bajko

Twenty years ago on October 9, 1984, then-San Francisco Health Director Dr. Mervyn Silverman ordered 14 of the city's gay bathhouses, sex clubs, and bookstores with private rooms to close down. Within five hours of Silverman issuing his order "to abate a public nuisance," the businesses had reopened and the debate on how to deal with the burgeoning AIDS crisis moved from the corridors of City Hall to the courthouse.

The rulings of those court cases and Silverman's decision changed forever a storied part of San Francisco's gay community.

Though the final demise of the city's gay bathhouses wouldn't come until years later, the regulations implemented in 1984 remain to this day.

And so does the debate on whether those regulations had any impact on stopping the spread of the disease. As the years since have sadly proven, AIDS remains a significant health threat, despite the absence of bathhouses. What little



Dr. Mervyn Silverman

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School board candidates square off at LGBT center

by Kevin Davis

As shown in the League of Women Voters sponsored forum Saturday, October 2 at the LGBT Community Center, when choosing a candidate for the four open slots on the seven-member San

Francisco Board of Education next month, the issue is not who cares the most about LGBTQ youth, as every candidate had an impressively progressive, caring attitude toward them. The only issue is what does the voter prefer, the more progressive candidates, or those with more moderate credentials.

Moderator Christi O'Connor first queried

candidates on the issue of school assignment, the district's legally obligated method of diversifying school enrollments.

The 11 candidates (of 12 running) who took part in the forum unanimously agreed that balancing accommodation of students' first five school choices with commuting factors, while also agreeing to wait on recommendations from a school assignment task force.

Jill Wynns, a 12-year incumbent on the board, noted that more people choose schools that are not in their neighborhood as their first choice. She championed raising the viability of troubled schools such as Balboa High School and Mission High School.

"Offer a variety of alternatives, magnet schools, and vocational high schools," suggested Log Cabin Republican member Joel Springer III. "Students should mix. Teach tolerance and respect and respect cultural backgrounds and gender."

Incumbent Mark Sanchez, who teaches outside of the district, suggested viewing underlying causes of segregation in economically depressed neighborhood housing patterns.

"I listen to parent hardships in community meetings," said incumbent Eric Mar, la-

beling himself a "20-year activist for desegregation."

"Let's respect the opinions of parent groups," said candidate Jane Kim. "Equity is the real issue." She talked about the undue burden placed on parents who choose schools outside their neighborhood. "Let's make diversity more of a value in school, make ethnic studies a priority in the curriculum."

One candidate discussed travel time for students.

"We need express busses, like commuters have," said Larry Kane, a high school wrestling coach. He said some of his students travel an hour and a half by bus from the Bayview.

Heather Hiles, who was appointed to the board by Mayor Gavin Newsom in January, advocated "real integration to have truly excellent schools," and chastised segregation between public and private schools. She strongly advocates support for "Dream" schools, which started this year.

"The diversity issue is crucial," said high school principal and candidate David Weiner. "They're willing to drive farther for high quality. Let's look at the balance between par-

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B.A.R. election endorsements

President and Vice President

John Kerry and John Edwards

U.S. Senate

Barbara Boxer

Congress

Dist. 1 Mike Thompson
Dist. 6 Lynn Woolsey
Dist. 7 George Miller
Dist. 8 Nancy Pelosi
Dist. 9 Barbara Lee
Dist. 10 Ellen Tauscher
Dist. 12 Tom Lantos
Dist. 14 Anna Eshoo
Dist. 15 Mike Honda
Dist. 16 Zoe Lofgren

State Senate

Dist. 3 Carole Migden
Dist. 7 Tom Torlakson
Dist. 9 Don Perata
Dist. 11 Joe Simitian
Dist. 13 Elaine Alquist

Southern California

Dist. 23 Sheila Kuehl
Dist. 39 Christine Kehoe

State Assembly

Dist. 6 Joe Nation
Dist. 12 Leland Yee

Dist. 13 Mark Leno
Dist. 14 Loni Hancock
Dist. 16 Wilma Chan
Dist. 27 John Laird

Southern California

Dist. 45 Jackie Goldberg

BART Board

Dist. 7 Lynette Sweet
Dist. 9 Tom Radulovich

San Francisco Supervisor

[Note: Some of the recommendations take into account ranked choice voting]
Dist. 1 Lillian Sing
Dist. 2 Michela Alioto-Pier
Dist. 3 Aaron Peskin
Dist. 5 Robert Haaland, first choice
Bill Barnes, second choice

Dist. 7 Sean Elsbernd
Dist. 9 Tom Ammiano, first choice
Miguel Bustos, second choice

Dist. 11 Gerardo Sandoval, first choice
Jose Medina, second choice

San Francisco Board of Education

Heather Hiles
Mark Sanchez
Joel Springer III
Jill Wynns

San Francisco Community College Board

Natalie Berg
Milton Marks III
Julio Ramos
Rodel Rodis

Berkeley City Council

Dist. 2 Darryl Moore

San Francisco Propositions

Vote YES on A, AA, B, E, G, I, J, K, N, and O
Vote NO on C, D, F, H, and L

California Propositions

Vote YES on 59, 60, 63, 66, 71, and 72
Vote NO on 1A, 60A, 61, 62, 64, 65, 67, 68, 69, and 70

Don't forget to vote Nov. 2!



San Francisco school board candidates Dr. James Calloway, Heather Hiles, and Larry Kane.

Jane Philomen Cleland

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AIDS Housing Alliance
Housing for People With HIV/AIDS

Racism protest draws 200 to Castro

by Louis Anthes

Last Friday, October 1, around happy hour time, Jack Davis was sitting inside SF Badlands looking out the open window, when protesters suddenly gathered outside chanting, "Hey, hey, ho, ho! Racism has got to go!"

Defiantly, Davis stuck both hands out the window, pointing his thumbs down. He explained to the *Bay Area Reporter* that he had been coming to SF Badlands for over 20 years and that "those queens out there just got it wrong. Badlands has always had a diverse crowd." But when asked if he would say whether the crowd was diverse on that particular night, Davis scanned the bar and replied, "I don't know — haven't done a survey."

SF Badlands, which is currently under investigation by the San Francisco Human Rights Commission concerning allegations of racial discrimination, is but one of the most recent examples in the long history of racism in the Castro, according to organizers of the protest march that Davis thumbed down. One of the organizers, Zwazzi Sowo of Black Rap and the San Francisco LGBT Pride board, said that on three different occasions she has been called a "nigger" in the Castro.

"I was active in the civil rights movement," she added. "And I have not experienced the things I have experienced just walking through the Castro."

Similarly, Calvin Gipson, a longtime gay activist in San Francisco, told the *B.A.R.* that he, too, had personally experienced racism when SF Badlands staff accused him of stealing a jacket that actually belonged to him. He also told protest marchers just before they left the LGBT Community Center on Market Street that the Castro was in danger of becoming "boring, because we have this fabric of beautiful people who are told, 'you don't belong unless you look exactly like me.'"

The march was the result of the efforts of a coalition of several groups, including San Francisco LGBT Pride, Black Rap, And Castro for All, the Harvey Milk LGBT Democratic Club, International Answer, the Asian Pacific Islander Queer Women and Transgender



Zwazzi Sowo, a member of the Pride board, speaks at the march against racism October 1.

Coalition, and the Gay Asian Pacific Alliance. Organizers chose the theme of "Speak Out Against Racism and Discrimination in the LGBT Community. Stand Up for Inclusion."

According to Sowo, "There's sickness at every level of our community — in our board rooms of gay organizations, in our staff, in the way we recruit volunteers, in visible symbols, in all the visual items of the gay community. They are all predominantly white."

For activists like Sowo, the culture of white supremacy in the LGBT community forces people of color to assimilate in subtle but profoundly dehumanizing ways by "laughing at jokes with white people about people of color, by not speaking up for people of color who are discriminated against, by feeling ashamed of who they are, whether it's Asian, Latino, or African American."

Following the warm-up rally at the LGBT center, where Sowo and Gipson spoke, about 200 marchers took over Market Street at rush hour on their way to Harvey Milk Plaza, where a second rally was held before everyone headed to SF Badlands. In between the spirituals "Total Praise"

and "We Shall Overcome," performed by the Transcendence Gospel Choir and the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus, Lea Arellano of Human Solutions spoke about how racism circulates not merely in the actions of those who exclude others but also in the silence and inaction of allies. She quoted the words of Martin Luther King Jr., who said: "In the end, we'll remember not the words of our enemies, but the silence of our friends."

Arellano also explained how racism is built on the same formula as homophobia, suggesting that gay racism was a kind of self-hatred.

HRC Commissioner Cecilia Chang echoed Arellano's definition of inclusion when she addressed the marchers at Harvey Milk Plaza, saying that San Francisco is a city where "we can be ourselves." Chang noted the connection between marriage equality and antiracism efforts. "We are here to celebrate our diversity," she said. "But we are one community."

Gipson, however, felt strongly that too much has been made about the marriage equality movement as inheriting the man-

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COMMUNITY NEWS

TG candidate tops campaign cash list; Bustos scores with 49ers

by Matthew S. Bajko

In his bid to become San Francisco's first transgender elected to the Board of Supervisors, Robert Haaland has a several thousand dollar edge over the other leading candidates in the race to replace retiring Supervisor Matt Gonzalez.

Running for the District 5 seat, which runs from Hayes Valley up through the Haight and Inner Sunset, Haaland raised \$46,219 in

the latest reporting period covering June through September. Helping Haaland, a labor activist and former president of the Harvey Milk LGBT Democratic Club, are Janet and Clint Reilly, himself a former mayoral candidate, giving \$500 each; Supervisor Aaron Peskin, who gave \$500; Eileen Hansen, who lost two bids to become District 8 supervisor, with \$250; and Laura Spanjian, co-chair of the Alice B. Toklas LGBT Democratic Club, who gave \$250.

Haaland, who received an en-

dorsement from the *Bay Area Reporter* this week, also garnered support from two contributors with ties to the paper: Paul Melbostad, B.A.R. legal counsel, gave \$500 and Vicky Kolakowski, who married B.A.R. news editor Cynthia Laird this past winter, gave \$100.

Closing in on Haaland's lead in the money race is Ross Mirkarimi, who reported raising \$41,270 over the summer months. Topping his list of contributors were the

next page ►

Cops ID suspect in Pendulum case

by Ed Walsh

The death of a man who was found unconscious two weeks ago in the Pendulum bar in the Castro has officially been ruled a homicide this week and police say they have identified a suspect.

City resident Jay Michael Carbone, 52, died at Davies Medical Center on Saturday, September 25. Two days earlier, he had gotten into a fight in the bar over his decision

to sunbathe nude in the bar's back patio. Paramedics were called to the bar after a bartender was alerted that Carbone was unconscious in the back patio, police said.

San Francisco Police Homicide Inspector Herman Jones told the *Bay Area Reporter* that he planned to meet with the District Attorney's office on Wednesday, October 6 to obtain an arrest warrant for the man investigators believe is responsible for Carbone's death. Jones declined to name the suspect out of concern that he would

flee the area. At press time, police could not confirm whether an arrest had been made.

Jones said that the Medical Examiner's office has determined that Carbone, who was white, died as the result of "blunt force injuries" to his head.

A bartender told police that Carbone first entered the Pendulum about 2 p.m. on Thursday, September 23. Carbone ordered his first drink when he entered the bar. He ordered his second drink

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by
Dale T. Boutiette

DOMESTIC PARTNERSHIP: PITFALLS AND PLANNING OPPORTUNITIES

This has been an amazing time for the California LGBT community. For a month there was marriage. On New Year's Day, AB 205 will go into effect, providing registered domestic partners with virtually all of the rights (and obligations) that married couples have under state law. But despite the great strides made lately in the ongoing battle for equality, the law does not provide anything close to complete protection for same sex couples. And single people are not protected at all.

• Do you know who will be making medical decisions on your behalf in the event that you become incapacitated? Unless you and a partner have registered with the state as domestic partners, someone will have to go to court and be appointed your conservator. And even for couples that are registered, your rights are only valid on this side of the state line.

• Have you given anyone the right to deal with your financial affairs if you become unable to do so?

If you haven't appointed someone in advance, the state will appoint someone for you.

• Where will your assets go when you die?

If you haven't made an estate plan, the state of California will decide for you.

Advance health care directives and financial powers of attorney are tools that let you appoint those who will make critical medical and financial choices on your behalf. Revocable living trusts protect you in the event of incapacity and, upon your death, allow you to leave your assets to the people that you care about while minimizing taxes and reassessments. A variety of charitable vehicles are available for you to create a charitable legacy that embodies the values that guided your life.

Because the federal government views even registered partners as "legal strangers", seemingly straightforward legal moves such as pooling assets, putting a partner's name on a deed, and other simple acts of commitment can result in onerous federal tax penalties. California's domestic partnership laws do not protect you against these penalties. A good estate plan can protect you and your

partner from overwhelming estate taxes and potentially devastating reassessments of real property.

Whatever your goals and circumstances, estate planning is a critical part of protecting yourself and those you love. Working with estate planning attorneys who are familiar with the new laws and who understand the nuances of LGBT planning will allow you to make the best possible use of all the tools and techniques available.

Dale T. Boutiette is a partner in Boutiette + von Herrmann, LLP, a San Francisco law firm specializing in estate planning for LGBT families. Our firm provides realistic solutions that reflect the goals and desires of each client.

If you would like to find out more about how to protect yourself and your loved ones, visit www.bvhlaw.com, or call 415.693.0550 to arrange for a complimentary consultation.



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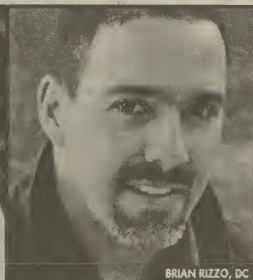
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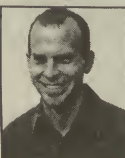
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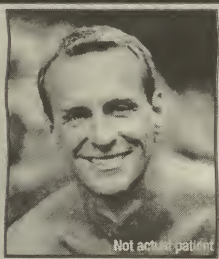


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News in brief

compiled by Cynthia Laird

Doggone Fun Run

Two well-known organizations, Pets Are Wonderful Support and the San Francisco SPCA, are joining forces to present the pooch and people event of the season. The ninth annual Doggone Fun Run takes place Sunday, October 10, at 9 a.m. in Lindley Meadow in San Francisco's Golden Gate Park (30th Avenue and Fulton Street entrance).

This year marks the first time PAWS and the SPCA have joined forces in hosting the event, which will raise money for both groups. The 5K pledge run and walk kicks off at 10 a.m. with two-legged and four-legged participants. Businesses, community groups, friends, and neighbors can sponsor teams or single runners (participants without dogs are also welcome). The minimum pledge is \$45. This year's event also will

feature food, music, games, doggie contests, and a "flea market."

The event is a huge hit with Bay Area dog lovers and last year 1,000 runners participated, raising over \$70,000.

For more information, visit www.doggonefunrun.org or call (415) 554-3007.

CUAV hotline training

Community United Against Violence is seeking volunteers for its 24-hour crisis line. The next training session begins Saturday, October 9 and continues on October 10, 17, 23, and 24. The 40-hour training session prepares volunteers to support LGBT survivors of domestic violence and hate violence. For times and location and to sign up, call Vanissar Tarakali at (415) 777-5500, ext. 323 or e-mail vanissar@cuav.org.

Project Inform forum

The future of HIV research will be the topic at a community

forum hosted by Project Inform Thursday, October 14 at 6:30 p.m. at the LGBT Community Center, 1800 Market Street in San Francisco.

"A Vision of Hope: Knowledge to Live By" is the title of the forum, which will look at questions such as "Are there treatments on the horizon that will work differently or be less toxic?" and "Why is finding a cure so difficult?"

There has been little headline news in HIV research since the advent of potent anti-HIV therapies nearly 10 years ago. While these treatments have helped many people living with HIV/AIDS, they are far from a cure. At the forum, Martin Delaney, founding director of Project Inform will be joined by Dr. Steven Deeks, Dr. Judy Lieberman, and Dr. Paul Volberding in discussing the next frontiers of HIV research.

The forum is free. For more information, call (415) 558-8669, ext. 213.

Inaugural benefit for Harvey Milk bust

by Cynthia Laird

The grassroots group working to get a sculpture of the late Supervisor Harvey Milk placed in City Hall is holding its inaugural event Thursday, October 14 in an effort to boost fundraising for the project.

The event takes place from 7 to 10 p.m. at the LGBT Community Center, 1800 Market Street, in San Francisco.

Work first started on the project last year, when Board of Supervisors President Matt Gonzalez launched a fundraising drive. Since then, a group of community members has held several plan-

ning meetings to move the project along. Now called the Harvey Milk Memorial Committee, organizers have identified a fundraising target of \$90,000, developed a two-year fundraising plan, set up a Web site, and created a community outreach strategy. Fiscal sponsorship is being provided by the San Francisco LGBT Pride Celebration Committee Inc.

"The Pride Committee is very happy to be able to help the Milk Memorial Committee in their goal to put Harvey back in City Hall," said Pride President Joey Cain. "This is long overdue."

Speakers at next week's benefit will include Supervisor Tom Ammiano, former Supervisor Harry

Britt, photographer Dan Nicoletta, *Bay Area Reporter* political editor Wayne Friday, and Gonzalez.

Following the program and hosted wine and cheese reception from 7 to 8 p.m., an entertainment program will feature Patrick Kennedy performing excerpts from Milk's "You Gotta Give 'Em Hope" speech, the Restoration Sanctuary Choir, Arturo Galster as Patsy Cline, and more. Emcees for the evening will be Donna Sachet, Gary Virginia, Heklina, and Tita Aida.

The suggested donation is \$10 to \$1,000, though no one will be turned away, organizers said.

For more information, visit www.milkmemorial.org. ▼

Safe-sex poster contest deadline nears

by Matthew S. Bajko

The deadline to submit entries for a safe-sex poster contest, and the chance to win a \$500 cash prize, is only eight days away. Submissions for the "Open Up" competition are due Friday, October 15.

The contest is sponsored by Eros owner Buzz Bense; Magnet, the gay men's health center in the Castro; gay-owned Better World

Advertising, a social marketing firm; and the *Bay Area Reporter*, the city's oldest gay newspaper. Its aim is to open up a chance for community members to design their own safe-sex prevention message and advertisement.

Modeled after similar competitions in Los Angeles and Seattle, the poster contest is an effort to talk directly to gay men about their sexual health without that conversation being muzzled by federal restrictions which censor

how those messages are presented.

A panel of local gay men will judge the submissions based on creativity; applicability to gay men in San Francisco; clarity, relevance, and accurate information; and having a "call to action." The winning entry will be announced on Tuesday, November 30, one day prior to World AIDS Day.

For detailed information regarding how and where to submit entries, visit www.magnetsf.org or contest or call (415) 581-1612. ▼

Campaign cash

◀ previous page

Reillys, who along with Green Party member and presidential candidate Ralph Nader's running mate Peter Camejo, each gave \$500; former police chief Richard Hongisto and former district attorney Terance Hallinan also gave \$500 each. SEIU Local 535 kicked in \$500 for Mirkarimi's campaign with both the Green Party and the San Francisco Late Night Coalition giving him \$250.

Bill Barnes, a former AIDS czar to Mayor Willie Brown who took a leave from his job as an aide to Supervisor Chris Daly to run his campaign, reported raising \$20,410. Top donors to Barnes include BART board member Tom Radulovich, engineer Veronica Campbell and contractors Tony Shiel and Bryan Birmingham, who all gave \$500. Hallinan and

his former deputy district attorney Jim Hammer both gave \$100 while Health Director Dr. Mitch Katz gave \$200.

Trailing behind her opponents is Lisa Feldstein, who raised \$11,770 and reported taking out a \$15,000 loan to pay for her campaign.

In District 9, where Tom Ammiano is fighting to keep his seat on the board, one of his opponents has apparently scored points with the San Francisco 49ers. With Ammiano supporting a ballot measure that would restrict the football team from selling the naming rights to the stadium, his challenger Miguel Bustos picked up several contributions from the team.

Bustos, who reported raising \$15,445 over the last three months, received \$500 from the 49ers organization, as well as \$100 donations from Murlan Fowell, the team's vice president of operations and Jim Mercurio, director

of stadium operations. He also took in \$500 from the San Francisco Police Officers Association and from Jay Shaffer, vice president of Wine.com. One notable name on his list of donors: Bettie Currie, former White House secretary during Bill Clinton's presidency, who gave \$100 to Bustos, a former employee in the Clinton administration.

Practically dead even with Bustos in the cash race is Renee Saucedo, who reported \$15,425 for her summer haul. Topping her list of contributors were the city's taxi drivers association, which gave \$500, and the Green Party, which gave \$250.

Ammiano reported raising \$4,910 during the same time frame, with most of his support from various unions, which kicked in \$2,500 to his campaign.

The figures reported do not include public financing the candidates have received. ▼

Oakland Pride Sunday

by Tyson Gillfillan

Capping off a diverse lineup of late summer Pride events in the East Bay, the city of Oakland is sponsoring an Out in Oakland celebration Sunday, October 10 in the city's Lake Merritt Parkway District.

"We're very excited Ilene Chaiken, producer of Showtime's *The L Word*, will be on hand to introduce our headlining musical act, Betty," said event spokesman Harry Hamilton. This is the first year the city of Oakland has played host to its own Pride event, which organizers hope will appeal to diverse groups within the community.

Previously, the privately produced East Bay Pride was held in Oakland.

Oakland City Council member Danny Wan is also positioning the event as an opportunity to introduce members of the LGBT community to the Lake Merritt Parkway neighborhood, which he hopes will become the centerpiece of an LGBT-focused economic redevelopment project. "LGBT community members have been saying they wish there were more gay-friendly places to go and shop at [in Oakland]," said Wan, who is openly gay. "This event is a way for people to get to know the neighborhood, as well as give feedback about specific businesses and amenities they'd like to see developed."

Detractors claim that predominantly gay neighborhoods have

emerged organically, not through city planning but as a result of socioeconomic forces that fostered LGBT households to move into and improve previously depressed areas. Pointing to San Francisco's Castro and New York's Chelsea neighborhoods, and small town Wilton Manors, Florida, as examples in which gays and lesbians moved into neighborhoods prior to gentrification, some feel the municipal support for a new LGBT neighborhood in Oakland is a thinly veiled effort to raise property values. The councilman himself was recently quoted as saying that a gay district in Oakland could "turn a tumble-down neighborhood into an economic and social hot spot."

Wan insists that the project's motivation is to service the needs of the community, citing Oakland's recent second-place ranking of the highest concentration of same-sex couples in a large metro area from *The Gay and Lesbian Atlas*. "This is a city-sponsored event to help achieve an Oakland-focused LGBT community," said Wan. "By focusing our efforts and showing businesses that we have a large population of LGBT families ... we can encourage them to begin catering to those families' needs."

Introducing the Lake Merritt Parkway District to the LGBT community isn't the only attraction at the festivities. Out in Oakland plans to celebrate the large diversity among Oakland's LGBT population by featuring performances catering to a wide range of tastes. Musical entertainment will

be provided by Betty, a five-piece pop rock alternative band fronted by three full-on females; Julia Serano, a local musician and spoken word artist; homo-hop group Deep Dickollective; Momma's Boyz, a hip-hop drag king performance group; vocalist Mark Weigle; and Linda Tillery, Bay Area vocalist and percussionist. Additional entertainment will be provided by DJ Kaliente, Omeyocan, burlesque group Harlem Shake, and Afia Walking Tree and Spirit Drumz.

The celebration also hopes to draw families with children, featuring face painting and interactive art activities produced by the nationally recognized Oakland Museum of Children's Art (MOCHA). "We are a very family-oriented community, and children are a very important part of that mix," said Hamilton.

The Gay & Lesbian Atlas ranked Oakland third among large metropolitan areas with the highest concentration of same-sex couples with children.

Out in Oakland is a free event, from 3 to 7 p.m. in Oakland's Lake Merritt Parkway District, 18th Street at Lakeshore Avenue. Complementary parking and shuttle service is available at the Henry J. Kaiser Event Center, 10 Tenth Street. The event center is within walking distance of the Lake Merritt BART station; the Pride celebration site is accessible on the 14 and 15 AC Transit lines. For more information, visit www.business2oakland.com/parkwaypride or call (510) 444-2489. ▼



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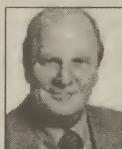
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TOM AMMIANO



DISTRICT 5

ROBERT HAALAND



DISTRICT 1

Jake Goldrick



DISTRICT 3

Aaron Peskin



DISTRICT 11

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RE-ELECT

Mark Sanchez



ELECT

Norman Yee

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SAN FRANCISCO PROPOSITIONS

Prop A **YES**
Housing for all, affordable & supportive

Prop B **YES**
Save neighborhood historic landmarks

Prop C Expand Access to quality health care **YES**
Prop D No Recommendation
Prop E No Recommendation
Prop F Non-citizen voting in school board elections **YES**
Prop G Health service Charter Amendment **YES**
Prop H No Recommendation
Prop I No Recommendation

Prop J Save city services **YES**

Prop K Maintain city services **YES**

Prop L General funds for single screen movie theaters **NO**

Prop M Removed from ballot

Prop N Send a message: "Bring our troops home." **YES**

Prop O Keep needed health services. **YES**

STATE PROPOSITIONS

Prop 59 Make government open and accountable **YES**

Prop 60 No Recommendation

Prop 61 Improve children's hospitals **YES**

Prop 62 Don't limit voters' choices **YES**

Prop 63 Support mental health services funding **YES**

Prop 64 Don't weaken consumer fraud protections **NO**

Prop 65 No Recommendation

Prop 66 Stop sending petty criminals to jail for life. **NO**

Prop 67 Save emergency medical care. Save lives! **YES**

Prop 68 Prevent non-Indian casinos in urban areas **NO**

Prop 69 No Recommendation

Prop 70 Stop the power grab by casino operators **NO**

Prop 71 Support funding for stem cell research **YES**

Prop 72 Support health care benefits for workers. **YES**

REGIONAL MEASURE

AA Make BART earthquake-safe **YES**

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B.A.R. recommendations

In the races for San Francisco supervisor, school board, and community college board, several candidates stand out above the rest. Last month, the *Bay Area Reporter* met with several candidates for various races, and came away impressed with their support for the LGBT community and their knowledge of issues facing their districts and the city as a whole. In a few cases, we are recommending more than one candidate, in accordance with ranked choice voting that will be in effect for the election. In most cases, however, we have selected a single candidate. The following are our recommendations:

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

District 1
Lillian Sing

Sing, a retired Superior Court judge, is a solid candidate who will represent the district well. An early member of the Gay Asian Pacific Alliance, Sing has long fought against discrimination and was the first Asian American judge in Northern California. Sing told us that quality of life issues are a major factor in the district race, and wants to find more creative ways to increase parking along Fulton Street and in commercial corridors. She describes herself as more moderate than incumbent Jake McGoldrick but added that "I am not running against him; I am running for myself." Sing supports same-sex marriage and, moreover, has a good working relationship with Mayor Gavin Newsom, who has endorsed her.

District 2
Michela Alioto-Pier

Alioto-Pier, who was appointed by Newsom to fill his seat on the board after he was elected mayor, needs to run to keep her position on the board. She was a solid choice when Newsom appointed her, and voters in the district should elect her next month. She faces no serious challengers.

District 3
Aaron Peskin

Peskin faces no serious opposition in the race. A hard worker, he has supported LGBT issues on the board and has proven to be an effective representative.

District 5
Robert Haaland (first choice)
Bill Barnes (second choice)

Earlier this year when Board of Supervisors President Matt Gonzalez decided not to seek re-election, he left the District 5 race wide open. With 22 candidates in the race, the winner will represent arguably the most progressive district in the city. Haaland and Barnes, both Democratic candidates, would each be effective.

Haaland, a transgender labor organizer, has years of experience building coalitions, as evidenced by endorsements from both Assemblyman Mark Leno (D-San Francisco) and his onetime primary rival, former Supervisor Harry Britt. If elected, it is believed he would be the first out transgender elected official in the country. Haaland has a solid grasp on the inner workings of City Hall and can deliver for the district. As a transgender man, Haaland is acutely aware of discrimination issues in the community. Also, Haaland told us he is focused on quality of life issues in District 5, such as getting more community policing in place and keeping beat officers on their routes for a longer period, such as six months (right now, officers don't have to work the same beat). That way, officers will get to know merchants, residents, and be in a position to offer substantive assistance to improve neighborhoods.

Haaland's record on LGBT civil rights issues is deep - he's a former president of the Harvey Milk LGBT Democratic Club - and he would be an excellent fit for District 5.

Barnes is an openly gay African American living with HIV; if elected, he would be the first out HIV-positive supervisor on the board. A seven-year resident of San Francisco, Barnes got his start in local government as the city's AIDS czar under former Mayor Willie Brown. Most recently he served as Supervisor Chris Daly's legislative aide, and has taken a leave from that job during the campaign. Barnes told us he is different from Daly, who has a reputation as somewhat of a hothead on the board who frequently spars with the mayor. Barnes said, "I like this mayor," and is supportive of homeless policies if the general assistance cash is replaced with services. He also sees the need to fund nonprofits that deal with

substance abuse, but acknowledged recent financial troubles with a couple of the agencies and supports audits of such programs that receive city funding.

Barnes demonstrates a good knowledge of City Hall and would serve the district well.

In line with ranked choice voting, we're recommending that voters select Haaland for their first choice and Barnes for their second.

District 7
Sean Elsbernd

Appointed to the Board of Supervisors in August (to replace Tony Hall, who became director of Treasure Island), Elsbernd is a District 7 native who once bagged groceries at Tower Market. While Elsbernd once worked as Hall's aide before becoming the mayor's liaison to the board, he emphatically told us that he does not share Hall's position on all issues. Most notably, Elsbernd was in favor of the ordinance allowing medical benefits for transgender city workers. Hall famously voted against the legislation, although Elsbernd said that he invited supporters of the plan to meet with Hall to discuss the measure. "I have zero intent of reversing that," he said when we asked his position.

Unlike Hall, Elsbernd supports same-sex marriage. He said that during his time working for the mayor, the "Winter of Love" earlier this year when gay and lesbian couples were married, was one of the happiest times he'd ever witnessed at City Hall.

Elsbernd wants to serve a full four-year term, and identified several key issues in his district: traffic and pedestrian safety; graffiti; blighted blocks; and other quality of life concerns. He is also interested in working to help more people become first time homebuyers.

Newsom made an excellent choice in appointing Elsbernd to the board and District 7 voters should elect him to a full term.

District 9
Tom Ammiano (first choice)
Miguel Bustos (second choice)

Supervisor Tom Ammiano has a solid record on the Board of Supervisors and has long worked to make the city a better place

page 23 ►

SF ballot measures

Below are our recommendations on San Francisco ballot measures.

Proposition A - Affordable Housing Bonds - Yes

This is a consensus measure that addresses three critical San Francisco issues: chronic homelessness, affordable rental housing, and home ownership.

Proposition B - Historical Preservation Bonds - Yes

This provides necessary funding to rehabilitate and restore historic San Francisco resources that make the city unique. It's an investment in infrastructure.

Proposition C - Health Service System - No

An unnecessary and duplicative proposal that turns control of benefits and costs over to those who directly benefit.

Proposition D - Changes to City Charter - No

This is not just a housekeeping measure. There are six different charter changes proposed - some good, some bad. They should be broken out and proposed individually.

Proposition E - Police and Fire Survivor Benefits - Yes

This measure affects survivor benefits for police and firefighters who die in the line of duty. A compassionate community owes this to the families of those who have died in exposing themselves to physical risk in service to the public.

Proposition F - Noncitizen Voting School Board Elections - No

While we are supportive of any measure that would increase a parent's involvement in his/her child's education, this proposition is in clear violation of the California Constitution. The issue should be addressed by a state constitutional amendment, not by a local proposition.

Proposition G - Health Plans for City Residents - Yes

Lack of health insurance for 45 million Americans is a national shame. Proposition G is a measured approach to permit the city's Health Services Board to research and make recommendations on how best to develop resident health insurance.

Proposition H - Naming the Stadium at Candlestick Point - No

Selling naming rights to a sports facility is a painless and common way to finance vital city services.

Proposition I - Economic Analysis of Legislation - Yes

This will provide needed information to the Board of Supervisors about pending legislation. More information is always better than less.

Proposition J - Sales Tax Increase - Yes

Companion measure to Proposition K, this increase in city sales tax from 8.5 percent to 8.75 percent is part of the budget crisis resolution prepared by the mayor and the Board of Supervisors. It's unpleasant but

necessary to keep vital city services.

Proposition K - Business Tax - Yes

This imposes a 0.1 percent gross receipts tax on businesses grossing over \$500,000 annually. It spreads the pain in trying to address the city's financial crisis.

Proposition L - Use of Hotel Tax to Preserve Movie Theaters - No

A badly thought out proposal to take \$8 million to \$9 million from the city's General Fund and give it to a private, untested organization. There is no accountability.

Proposition N - Withdrawing U.S. Military Personnel from Iraq - Yes

While the solution proposed may not recognize the complexity of all the issues involved, we strongly support any expression of opposition to this sad and unnecessary blunder of American foreign policy.

Proposition O - Use of Sales Tax Funds - Yes

A nonbinding statement of policy to the mayor and Board of Supervisors that the revenue generated from increasing the sales tax (Proposition J) be spent in certain vital city services that would benefit low-income and vulnerable communities.

Proposition AA - BART General Obligation Bond - Yes

This is a \$980 million, three-county general obligation bond paid from property tax revenues to do necessary upgrades to BART as well as improvements to certain underground Muni Metro lines in San Francisco. ▼

Send a message that will rock the nation

by Rich Kowalewski, Laura Spanjian, and Michael Goldstein

Many people have said that with 22 candidates running for supervisor of District 5, it is hard to make a decision about whom to support. We believe the decision is easy: Robert Haaland is the best choice for supervisor of San Francisco, District 5. Robert Haaland is courageous, dedicated, experienced, and principled. His wide range of experience on many issues that matter to San Franciscans, as well as his ability to work with people to build effective coalitions, will make him an exceptionally effective supervisor. San Francisco will continue to make LGBT history in Robert's election, because he will be the first openly transgender person elected to the Board of Supervisors in San Francisco and in the nation.

Through many years of grassroots organizing, Robert has demonstrated his strong and genuine commitment to core values of fairness and justice. His supporters respect his integrity, his willingness to give all sides a fair hearing, and his ability to stick to his principles while seeking common ground to benefit the greatest number. Robert has set himself apart as a bridge-builder by winning endorsements from both the Harvey Milk and Alice B. Toklas LGBT Democratic clubs, a rare occurrence in contentious San Francisco politics. He has also secured endorsements from the San Francisco Democratic Party, San Francisco Tenants Union, the Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund, the San Francisco Women's Political Committee, and the California Nurses Association.

Robert moved to San Francisco after being thrown out of his home by his father, who feared that Robert would spread the "gay disease" to his family. Since his arrival, he has dedicated himself to empowering our communities, including the LGBT community, communities of color, immigrants, and low-income working families. He served as vice president of the Harvey Milk Club for four terms, and then as president. He was recently awarded the Alice B. Toklas Club's Coalition Builder Award for his work empowering the LGBT community. In 2002, Robert became the first openly transgender man elected to office when he became a member of the Democratic County Central Committee. He was re-elected this March.

As we have seen this year, San Francisco can change the national agenda, particularly for the LGBT community. It will not only be an honor for us to have Robert on the Board of Supervisors, but will also be a historic step for our community and for the country, and one that San Francisco deserves to make.

On endorsements and the fair

Robert Haaland gets my endorsement for District 5 supervisor. An educated, conscientious, dedicated advocate of rent control is what District 5 needs, and that is Robert Haaland.

John Karr is a fine writer, as attested to by his 25-year tenure at the B.A.R.

"Cookie Dough" is a great example of gay boy narcissism. At the Castro Street Fair, Cookie spent 45 minutes on the microphone being profoundly annoying and not even knowing it. Ugh. Blah, blah, blah, blah. I never saw anyone wanting to smell their own asshole more than Cookie Dough. She lightened up the stage when she left. People screamed at her to "Shut the fuck up!" and "You're not talented!" but she kept talking and talking and talking—about the rock group Boston, and how wonderful she is. She should be called "Cookie Don't." How blissfully unaware these narcissists can be! She's worse than warts! She had not one funny moment and that took 45 minutes. Whoever booked her should be shot.

The Ethel Merman Experience is the best drag act on the whole goddamn earth.

The Tubes were fabulous.

Come see the free show at Magnet, 4122 18th Street, Saturday, October 23, presented by Gay Artists and Writers Kollektive. Songwriters, bands, comics, and poets can sign up at 6:30 p.m.

Jon Sugar
Gay Artists and Writers Kollektive
San Francisco

Fundraisers are important

I can only hope that Mr. Morales [Mailstrom, Sep-

tember 23] will organize a "Big Dick" or "Hot Chest" contest-fundraiser soon. I'm sure it will be fantastic. I really don't see the difference between a "Cutest in the Castro" contest versus a "Big Dick for AIDS" contest. I hope the Cutest contest raised some big bucks for our friends who need it. I'm also pretty sure many of our ill comrades enjoyed the fundraiser in one way or another.

The way I see it is: fundraising is fundraising. As long as it's legal and the money goes to a good cause, where's the harm?

None of us has agreed with Robert on every issue, yet we each support him wholeheartedly. His principles, his effectiveness, and his ability to build coalitions where there were none before are qualities needed on the Board of Supervisors. They are qualities our city needs. They are qualities that prove to us that Robert is ready to take on the challenges at the board, and we are behind him all the way.

That's why such a wide array of leaders within the LGBT community support Robert: Assemblyman Mark Leno, Supervisor Tom Ammiano, Former Supervisors Harry Britt and Leslie Katz, Commissioners Theresa Sparks and Cecilia Chung, lesbian pioneers Phyllis Lyon and Del Martin, and community leaders like Hank Wilson, Jim Rivaldo, Calvin Gipson, Debra Walker, Vicky Kolakowski, Jordy Jones, Dion Manley, Howard Wallace, Eileen Hansen, Scott Wiener, Paul Melbostad, Carole Cullum, Teddy Witherington, Connie O'Conner, Holli Their, Roma Guy, Mark Dunlap, David Campos, Rafael Mandelman, Jerry Threet, Chris Hwang, Rachel Timoner, Felicia Park-Rogers, Joey Cain, Tommi Aviccoli Mecca, Tab Buckner, Shawna Virago, Krissy Keefer, Larry-Bob, Kirsten Boyd, Walter Park, Joan Roughgarden, Lisa Geduldig, and Karlyn Lotney, aka "Fairy Butch." ▼

Rich Kowalewski and Laura Spanjian are co-chairs of the Alice Club; Michael Goldstein is president of the Milk Club.

Guest Opinion

tember 23] will organize a "Big Dick" or "Hot Chest" contest-fundraiser soon. I'm sure it will be fantastic.

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The way I see it is: fundraising is fundraising. As long as it's legal and the money goes to a good cause, where's the harm?

Jimmy Donahue
San Francisco

Karr knows his porn

In reference to the letter about the John Karr reviews [Mailstrom, September 30]: I personally read Mr. Karr's columns regularly and find them funny and interesting, even though I don't buy much porn. He lets you know enough to make a good decision in your porn buying to make it easier.

Additionally, everything gets old but imagine trying to come up with a new column almost every week and making it different than the last. Give the guy a break, he does a great job.

Larry E. Fisher
San Francisco

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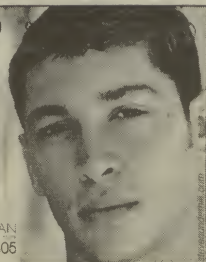
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Living out

by Paula Martinac

Every year since its inception, National Coming Out Day—held on October 11—has been a time of particular importance to young gay people who are just beginning to accept their sexuality or share it with family and friends. But for those of us who acknowledged our sexual orientation long ago, the challenge is not how to come out, but how to “live out” in a society that makes it hard to do so.

We all know the gay mantra: “Coming out is a lifelong process.” Indeed, there is inevitably always someone new in our lives to come out to, since society in general is set up for straight people, most of whom will automatically assume we’re heterosexual until they’re told otherwise.

But the discomfiting thing is, you can be as out as you think is humanly possible and still occasionally have to hide who you are. Just the other day, my partner was at work, I was alone in the house with a young repairman I’d never met, and I nervously took down our domestic-partner certificate, which I knew he would come in contact with and I didn’t particularly want to share.

I felt ashamed for doing it; after all, I’m a very public lesbian writer who addresses gay themes, and I’ve been out to my parents for 20 years. Even so, there are good reasons that many gay people, myself included, occasionally run for the safety of the closet. Given that we’re not equal under the law, given that in extreme situations some of us have been killed for being who we are, fear can be a big factor in our lives. If you talk openly about your same-sex partner at work, will some religious-fanatic coworker slap you with a sexual harassment suit? (I know a woman that happened to.) And who’s to say the jovial repair guy doesn’t bash queers for fun on Saturday nights?

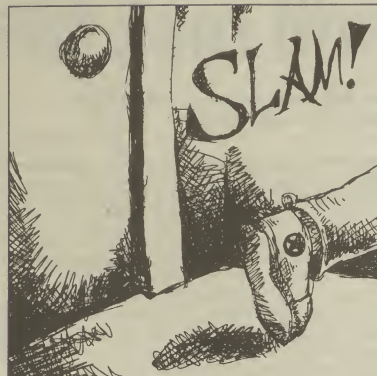
But there’s yet another kind of fear that can make our closet doors swing shut again, at least temporarily. Take the example of

Mary Cheney. She’s an out lesbian, no doubt about it. Years before Dick publicly exploited (I mean, acknowledged) her sexual orientation, she was openly gay at work, employed by Coors Brewing Company as its lesbian and gay community liaison. She has long shared a home with partner Heather Poe and wears a gold wedding ring. In fact, Mary’s so out that by now there are probably very few people in the country who don’t know she’s gay.

But then, at the Republican National Convention last month, Mary held her own National Going-Back-In Day. Whether by personal choice or out of family pressure, she did not appear on stage with the rest of the Cheneys after the vice presidential acceptance speech, or with the Bushes during the closing moments of the convention. And my guess is that even if Mary had taken her rightful place onstage, it would have been without her partner.

For this, Mary Cheney has been pilloried, even though gay people are in comparable situations all the time across America. The big difference is that our fathers aren’t vice president, and our family dramas aren’t nationally televised. Consider, however, the times you’ve been asked by a family member to be “discreet”—say, when your father bemoaned your plans to march in the local gay-rights parade, because his boss might see you on the TV news; or when your mother asked you not to complain because your same-sex partner wasn’t invited to a family wedding.

In a strange way, we have more in common with Mary Cheney than we would like to think.



Christine Smith

Maybe that’s why we all love to hate her so much, because she is us. Although I don’t agree with her politically, I recognize Mary—in myself, in my friends, in most of the gay people I’ve ever known who took a step back into the closet for the benefit of a straight family member, even though it cost us something to do it.

The challenge, then, is how to be true to ourselves even when the straight folks in our lives ask us to be false. Do we sit on the sidelines, doing a Mary Cheney? Or do we launch an all-out defense of our “outness”?

The most tenable approach probably lies in trying to stop these kind of family situations from happening in the first place. One concrete tactic is the theme of this year’s NCOD, which encourages speaking out to family members about our lives and our issues. Tellingly, a 2003 survey by the Human Rights Campaign found that, although 77 percent of us consider ourselves openly gay, a mere 32 percent talk to our parents about our issues, and only 46 percent broach these topics with our siblings. Those numbers have to change. If we hope to achieve real equality, we need our families as allies, making it easier, not more difficult, for us to live out. ▼

Paula Martinac is a Lambda Literary Award-winning author of eight books and editor in chief of Q Syndicate. She can be reached care of this publication or at Lesbian Notions@qsyndicate.com.

Fighting Big Tobacco



Courtesy, Jessica Miller, LGBT Partnership

The California LGBT Tobacco Education Partnership officially opened its doors October 7 and is a new tenant at the LGBT Community Center. A luncheon honored the center and the Pride Committee for their leadership in rejecting money from the tobacco industry. From left: Joey Cain, Pride board president; Ted Guggenheim, project coordinator and Bob Gordon, project director of the LGBT Partnership; the antismoking character “CiggyButz”; Assemblyman Mark Leno (D-San Francisco); and LGBT center staffer Roberto Ordenana. The group was honored by Leno for its work.

Yes on 60; no on 62

by Wayne Friday

With more than a dozen statewide initiatives to be determined on the November 2 ballot, some mean more than others. Among the most important of those to defeat on Election Day is Proposition 62. In some districts throughout the state, Proposition 62 would require Democrats to spend their time, money, and energy fighting other Democrats in general elections, instead of drawing distinctions with Republicans. This is because, under Proposition 62, the top two vote-getters in a primary, regardless of political party, would face off again in the general election.

Currently, after a primary contest, a Democrat typically meets a Republican candidate in the general election, thereby offering voters a clear choice in terms of perspective and policy focus. If Proposition 62 were to win next month, two Democrats (especially in heavily Democratic areas like San Francisco) who finished one-two in the June primary would have to fight it out again in the November general election, focusing the debate on interparty squabbles instead of encouraging Democrats to work together on issues most people care about.

Another negative side effect of Proposition 62 is that it hurts voter choice by making it much more difficult for lesser known candidates and smaller parties to reach the threshold of votes it would take to make the general election ballot.

Any way you look at it, Proposition 62 is a bad idea for California voters. A better alternative is Proposition 60, which was placed on the ballot in a bipartisan manner by the state Assembly in hopes of preserving our current system of primary elections that allow all parties' candidates the right to have a voice in the general election.

This is important — on November 2, vote yes on Proposition 60 and vote no on Proposition 62.

Politics and people

This just in: District 8 Supervisor **Bevan Duffy** told the *Bay Area Reporter* Wednesday that he has endorsed **Robert Haaland** in the District 5 supervisor race. "I really reflect on Harvey Milk a great deal in this job and I know in my heart Harvey wouldn't let an opportunity pass to get a transgender person in office," Duffy said. "I think Robert has integrity, intelligence, and has conducted himself impeccably in his campaign."

First debate revives Democratic spirits: With more than 62 million Americans watching (the highest number since 1992) last week's first presidential debate, and with polls unanimously showing Democratic nominee **John Kerry** a clear winner over Republican **George W. Bush**, Democrats across the country are feeling they can retake the White House. Tomorrow night's (Friday, October 8) debate from Washington University in St. Louis and the final one on October 13 from Arizona State University in Tempe, while expected to draw somewhat smaller viewing numbers, will take on added meaning in this election.

Editorial writers (even those from GOP-leaning papers) gave the clear edge in the first debate to



John Kerry and John Edwards on the campaign trail earlier this year.

Kerry. The Democratic challenger appeared relaxed and focused, while at all times showing respect. Bush, meanwhile, seemed tired, annoyed at even having to share the stage, and repeatedly (11 times, by my count) punctuated his thoughts with the refrain "It's hard work." The president clearly appeared on the defensive during

most of the 90-minute debate. Kerry, meanwhile, delivered what most agreed was a powerful indictment of Bush's foreign policy record, particularly his unpopular war on Iraq. Tomorrow night's debate in St. Louis will be that of a so-called

town hall format when the candidates will take questions from an audience of voters rather than a seasoned moderator. My personal thoughts on last week's debate? Kerry clearly showed the country a Democratic nominee who is a confident and visionary leader while Bush repeatedly engaged in campaign sound bites, smirked, and scowled while Kerry spoke, and paused for seemingly long periods of time, appearing to be searching for words or, as one TV commentator put it: "After the first 15 minutes, the president appeared to have run out of **Karl Rove's** one-liners."

And what's up with the sons of former GOP presidents switching to Democrat Kerry? First, **Ron Reagan** said he will be voting for Kerry for president, and then last week, General **John Eisenhower**, the son of the late President Dwight D. Eisenhower, switched his party affiliation of 50 years to endorse Kerry (could **Tricia Nixon** be next?)

From Madrid comes word that despite vociferous opposition from the Roman Catholic Church, Spain's Cabinet last week proposed legislation giving gay men and lesbians the right to marry and adopt children. If Parliament, as expected, passes the legislation, Spain would join Belgium and the Netherlands in legalizing gay marriage.

I don't usually plug paying events, but you must catch this: filmmaker **Marc Huestis** has put together a very interesting (and humorous) video diary of his visit to the four-day Republican National Convention in NYC. "Way Cool: RNC As Not Seen on TV" will be seen on Sundays at noon, starting October 17 at the Roxie Theatre, 3117 16th Street at Valencia. This is a 90-minute video that you must see. (Only \$7 admission; 415-863-0611 for info).

So, to the surprise of no one, the Republican-sponsored amendment to the Constitution to ban gay marriage was defeated 227 to 186 last week, falling far short of the two-thirds needed to pass, but

everyone knew it was a Republican ploy to begin with (only 27 GOP House members voted against the fake amendment scam, disappointing many Republican gay activists) and, no, I don't know where Representative **Jane Harman** (D-California) was when the vote was taken; she obviously wasn't on the House floor where she was supposed to be. Harman was one of 20 representatives who didn't bother to vote on the proposal.

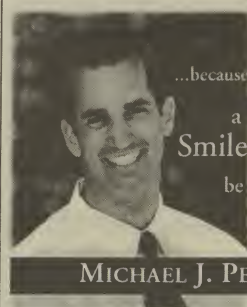
In Sacramento, political operatives are openly saying that Governor **Arnold Schwarzenegger** would appoint termed-out Republican state Senator **Jim Brulte** (Rancho Cucamonga) to replace Democratic Secretary of State **Kevin Shelley** if the embattled Shelley eventually resigns or is bounced from office. Meanwhile, Shelley's troubles keep growing, and even some of his Democratic friends have expressed concern. So far, state and San Francisco investigators have been letting the FBI take the lead on looking into charges of everything from using federal election funds to campaign to accepting illegal campaign contributions. State Senator **Jackie Speier** (D-Hillsborough), who led one of the Legislature's investigations of former Republican Insurance Commissioner **Chuck Quackenbush**, last week said lawmakers needed to take the time to look into the issues raised and then hold hearings. Speier: "If it did happen, it's very troubling; it's illegal, and it's one of those fundamental no-nos that we're taught when you first get elected."

San Francisco supervisors, please note: The Chicago City Council last week unanimously passed an ordinance banning panhandling within 10 feet of a bus stop, bank or automated teller machine; in sidewalk cafes or restaurants; on public transportation; and in gas stations. Panhandlers will also be prohibited from touching or following people, blocking paths or entrances, using abusive language or panhandling in groups.

And for those many **Melissa Etheridge** fans, we learn from the *Hollywood Reporter* that the popular out lesbian singer-songwriter will star in an ABC sitcom about a gay single mother; the still untitled project is being pitched as a non-traditional family comedy that centers on a gay music teacher who lives with her best friend, a straight man, and the two are raising the daughter of another friend.

My "Quote of the Week" comes from gay conservative pundit **Andrew Sullivan**, commenting on last week's debate, in reference to President Bush's comment that he's "trying to put a leash" on first daughters **Jenna** and **Barbara**. Sullivan: "No president who has presided over Abu Ghraib should ever say he wants to put anyone on a leash."

And how was your week? ▼



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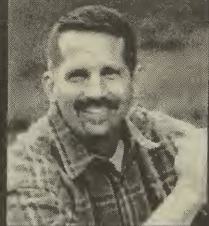
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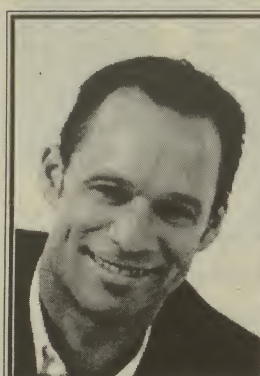
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Who was Janis Joplin?

by Liz Highleyman

October 4, 1970 (34 years ago today): Janis Joplin dies of a heroin overdose.

Dubbed the "Judy Garland of Rock," Janis Joplin lived a short, tumultuous life filled with booze, drugs, and sex with both men and women. Although she achieved fame and fortune, she never got over her feeling of being a misfit — a struggle familiar to many queers.

Joplin was born on January 19, 1943, to a middle-class family in Port Arthur, Texas. As an intelligent and creative teenager who struggled with her weight and a bad case of acne, she was cruelly taunted and ostracized by her classmates — a rejection that hurt her deeply. Years later on Dick Cavett's TV talk show she would say, "They laughed me out of class, out of town, out of the state, man."

Joplin left home at age 17 and began singing in coffeehouses around Texas. After fraternity boys at the University of Texas in Austin voted her "Ugliest Man on Campus," she dropped out and hitchhiked to San Francisco in 1963, where she hung out in the beatnik stronghold of North Beach.

In June 1966, Joplin joined the psychedelic rock band Big Brother and the Holding Company and

became involved with the Haight-Ashbury hippie scene. The band took the nation by storm at the Monterey International Pop Festival in June 1967, and their *Cheap Thrills* album was released the following summer. But Joplin soon overshadowed the group, and she left to form the Kozmic Blues Band and later the Full Tilt Boogie Band.

Although not conventionally beautiful, Joplin became a sex symbol for her generation, owing to the raw sensual energy of her performances and her "Earth Mother" style of wild hair, flowing clothes, feathers, and jewelry. But her tough "blues mama" image concealed her underlying vulnerability and loneliness. "On stage, I make love to 25,000 people," she once said. "Then I go home alone."

Always self-conscious about her appearance, Joplin sought affirmation through sex with both men and women. Her male lovers included singers Country Joe McDonald and Kris Kristofferson, and she was engaged to a wealthy Berkeley student at the time of her death. During her early years in San Francisco, she frequented local lesbian bars with her female lover, Jae Whitaker. Joplin's longest same-sex relationship was with Peggy Caserta, who documented the four-year affair in her 1973 kiss-and-tell biography, *Going Down with Janis* (which includes the infamous opening line,

"I was stark naked, stoned out of my mind on heroin, and the girl lying between my legs giving me head was Janis Joplin").

As her fame grew, Joplin's inner emptiness persisted. She drank heavily and became addicted to heroin. At age 27, she died of an apparently accidental overdose in a Los Angeles motel room on October 4, 1970.

Joplin has provided inspiration for many female rock musicians who followed, and she is admired by countless unconventional young people who feel alienated from society. When Joplin attended her 10th high school reunion, a fan wrote in a letter to *Rolling Stone*, "All the outcasts who didn't fit into the closed society that is the American high school knew she was one of us." ▼

Past Out

Liz Highleyman is a freelance writer and editor who has written widely on health, sexuality, and politics. She can be reached care of this publication or at PastOut@qsyndicate.com.

Suggested reading

Echols, Alice. 1999. *Scars of Sweet Paradise: The Life and Times of Janis Joplin* (Henry Holt).

Friedman, Myra. 1973. *Buried Alive: The Biography of Janis Joplin* (William Morrow).

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School board

◀ page 1

ents' desire for their own preference of neighborhood and desire for quality."

Proposition F

Next, the candidates sparsely out opinions on Proposition F on the November ballot that would give noncitizens the right to vote in school board elections in the city.

Candidate Norman Yee promoted giving parents a voice, the right, for example, to say to the school district - change something for my child, but added that voting is just one element of parent participation.

Wynns and Weiner raised the concern that moving the school board elections outside the regular election cycle might disenfranchise voters. "Noncitizens should vote in all elections," said Wynns. "We have an obligation to do more to get parents engaged."

"We involve parents whether they're citizens or not," said Weiner of his school.

"I favor making them citizens," said candidate Starchild. "Noncitizens pay taxes, follow laws, come here for a better life." He called the lack of documentation an "artificial distinction."

"Citizenship entails the right to vote," said Springer. "There are thousands of ways for parents to be involved."

Mar estimated that 18,000 additional people could vote if Proposition F passes. "Elevate parent voices," he urged.

"If we're not going after votes, then we're not accountable," said Kim.

"My colleagues play politics, and this is an example," said Hiles. She criticized the 10 hours the board discussed the proposition at a recent meeting and suggested job training programs and more bilingual staff as alternatives to voting rights.

"No Child Left Behind left children behind," said Hiles, referring to President Bush's education law. She pledged to continue submitting federal grant proposals that equalize funding of urban schools, better leverage philanthropic aid, and threw out ideas to open playgrounds after school.

Kane advised seeking 100 percent reimbursement for the free lunch program, instead of the current 30 percent and better leveraging resources of the city, community groups, business, and Muni.

Mar said that schools should be prioritized over prison spending.

"It is the responsibility of the school board to get the biggest bang for our buck," said Wynns. "It takes work and skill-building to get additional funding."

Libertarian Starchild called raising money through increased taxes irresponsible.

Kim suggested making Muni free to students and criticized funds for increased antigang efforts bringing police into the middle schools, instead of offering more student counseling.

Springer said, predictably, that



Mark Sanchez and Joel Springer III at the forum.

he was "not in favor of raising taxes unless as a last resort" but favored businesses adopting schools. "Every principal is an entrepreneur," reads his campaign materials.

Weiner said he deals personally with the decision of whether to cut music, PE, or class size when budgets are reduced.

Weiner touted his achievement in raising math and reading proficiency among his school's lowest performing African American students and said the solution was allocating resources (or the weighted student formula to tailor funding for academic achievement) to the most needy for after school literacy experts, reading coaches. "I want to replicate this throughout the district," he said.

LGBT issues

To the question "What should we do to give transgender students equal access?" the four queer candidates and a few members of the sparse LGBT center audience identified personally with the issue.

Sanchez spoke for all the hopeful saying, "I'm proud to be in a city where we embrace all students," calling this district "ahead of the game," and recalled his fear factor as a 1980s high schooler.

Proclaiming herself "an out lesbian since age 18," Hiles also called peer to peer counseling and strong role models the most "impactful and effective" for children grappling with sexual identity issues.

"I wish programs like this existed in the 1960s - I would have come out sooner," said Springer.

Starchild, a bisexual, called his East Bay middle school years, "the worst years of my life, based on my nonconformity." He called for a zero tolerance policy for bullying and made a connection with harassment based on class.

The gay-friendly candidates also spoke to the issue.

Kim said the LGBT youth she works with tell her that teachers make homophobic comments. "When the student population is coming out at younger age and more confident, even in middle school."

She also called for unisex bathrooms in all schools.

"We make it a community effort," said Weiner, who promoted his school's upcoming first LGBT

Pride assembly. "We want to welcome gay people at the elementary level so children see people with all experiences."

"We have the best support services for youth in the country," said Wynns, recalling the board passing a policy against discrimination of transgender youth.

Kane told of an incident when Bayview and Mission students refused to attend a post-wrestling match party at his Castro District home, and suggested more peer to peer workshops and leadership at the teacher level.

Mar spoke of transgender East Bay teenager Gwen Araujo's murder and made the connection between homophobia and anti-migrant sentiment. He praised the role of community-based groups like the Lavender Youth Recreation and Information Center and called for more conflict resolution and professional development training. ▼

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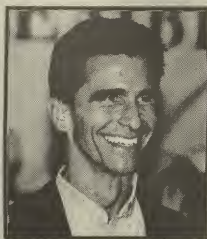
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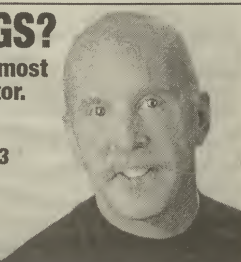
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A quiet coming out day

by Tyson Gillfillan

National Coming Out Day, held every October 11 to commemorate the anniversary of the 1987 March on Washington for gay and lesbian equality, is typically celebrated nationwide through workshops, rallies, and special events aimed at increasing LGBT visibility, and to inspire closeted or questioning individuals with a sense of community.

But finding a place to celebrate in San Francisco this year might leave some wondering if all the closets have emptied.

A review of several community calendars very few celebrations for National Coming Out day this year. "If the idea is that nobody in the Bay Area's no longer in the closet, that's certainly not true," said Thom Lynch, executive director of the San Francisco LGBT Community Center. "We try to provide a safe place and opportunity for people to come out all the time, but having one day wholly focused on the issue helps remind people that coming out is important."

Lynch said he's bothered that the center isn't doing anything special for NCOD, and plans to work with community organizations or the Human Rights Campaign for next year's celebration. HRC has traditionally sponsored events and initiatives like NCOD through its HRC Foundation. Past celebrations have included rallies with celebrity guests, and special

CD and DVD releases. But HRC has no major national events planned this year.

According to John Lake, local HRC chapter representative, the organization's focus has been centered on fighting the Federal Marriage Amendment, and backing LGBT-supportive election campaigns. "By concentrating on voter education and helping create a politically GLBT-friendly environment, it becomes safer for more people to come out," said Lake. The HRC Foundation's national theme for this year's coming out day is "Come Out. Speak Out. Vote" to encourage out LGBT Americans to talk to their friends and families about public policy issues and the fight for equality.

Bay Area events

The city of Oakland is bucking the no celebration trend by sponsoring a Pride festival on October 10 in the Lake Merritt Parkway district. Featuring food, musical entertainment, and family activi-

ties, "Out in Oakland" is promoted as a celebration of the entire LGBT community [see story, page 5].

The evening of October 11, San Francisco State University's Queer Alliance is sponsoring a campus event, "Come Out and Celebrate Yourself." According to event organizer Courtney Hosmon, the event will be a celebration for the entire community with music and speakers sharing coming out stories and experiences. U.C. Berkeley's Queer Council has promised a noon rally and a host of campus events throughout the week, although none were confirmed by press time.

Other area events include a special National Coming Out Day reception and comedy show hosted by QComedy during its regularly-scheduled Monday night Queer Comedy event at the San Francisco LGBT center. Visit www.sfccenter.org for more information. ▼

Oops, Google search snafu sends visitors to ex-gay site

by Tyson Gillfillan

This week people searching for coming out information using the PlanetOut Network's "enhanced by Google" search engines have been directed to a Web site for *I Do Exist* as a preferred link. *I Do Exist*, a controversial film by ex-gay groups, is being promoted by its producers for school screenings nationwide during the week of October 11 to counteract National Coming Out Day events.

The 52-minute film profiles several people who claim to have given up homosexuality for a straight lifestyle, and features Columbia University professor Robert Spitzer, who claims homosexuality is a matter of choice. Opponents, including the American Association of Psychologists, have discredited much of Spitzer's research upon which *I Do Exist* is based.

PlanetOut Network cited Google's "AdSense" technology for generating the search results, and said they regularly report ads placed by antigay groups for removal. "It's particularly inappropriate to have [ex-gay] ads run on a site gays and lesbians depend upon to be a safe place," said Plan-

etOut Network spokesman Bryce Eberhart.

A Google spokesperson acknowledged that the automated nature of AdSense can distribute ads that are inappropriate for the intended audience, and said the company was taking steps to prevent the link from being shown on PlanetOut in the future.

According to *I Do Exist* producer Warren Throckmorton, National Coming Out Day was specifically targeted "to show there is an alternative to homosexuality." Throckmorton said the film has been booked into schools and libraries in 45 cities.

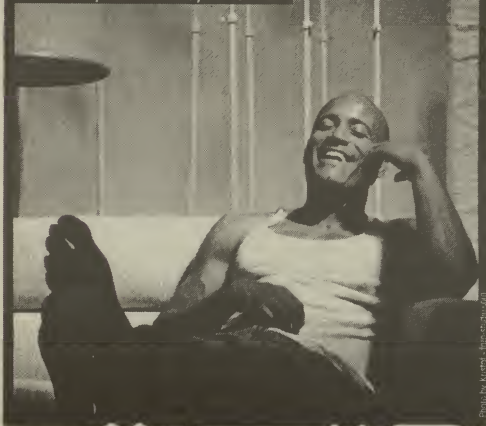
"That sounds completely misguided," said Carolyn Laub, executive director of the Gay-Straight Alliance Network. "The point of gay-straight alliance clubs and National Coming Out Day observances in schools is to promote safety and respect among all students. Gay and lesbian students face a great deal of harassment and discrimination in their schools."

If schools promote films such as *I Do Exist* but stifle groups like GSA clubs, LGBT students and their parents can seek recourse through First Amendment and antidiscrimination lawsuits, Laub noted. ▼

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Gay Life, promoting gay men's sexual health and emotional well-being. Gay Life is a program of the San Francisco AIDS Foundation.

Racism protest

◀ page 2

tle of the civil rights movement. "On May 17, I led a rally for gay marriage, but today I'm leading a rally for the inclusion of all within the gay community," Gipson told the B.A.R. He steadfastly refused to compare the two movements, explaining, "If we can make such noise about gay marriage, then we should be making noise about racism" in the LGBT community.

Gipson was happy that many people came out to the protest march identifying as white supporters of civil rights, like Max Killen. Killen was formerly an employee at SF Badlands and now is a witness in the ongoing investigation of racial discrimination allegations at that bar.

Killen said he agreed to be a witness because he was "angry and upset about what was happening there" and wanted to do something about it.

Gipson hopes to see more people like Killen, who actively refuse to collaborate in racism in the Castro or anywhere. "I would like to see white people have the courage to speak to other white people about their racism," he said.

As for Sowo, she would like to see all people end the silence about discrimination and adopt a zero tolerance policy for bigotry across the board. She was happy that at least 200 people agreed with her and came out to the march.

"Hey, it's a beginning," she cheerfully summed up. "When the first gay Pride happened, there were 17 people there." ▼

Ranked choice voting is here

by Kevin Davis

Equity for small-budgeted minority candidates, high voter turnout, polite campaigning, and fewer "spoiled" votes are likely effects of San Francisco's first ranked choice voting for district supervisors on November 2.

Realizing that printing ballots, staffing polling places, campaigning, voting, and vote counting costs candidates, voters, and taxpayers millions, in 2002 San Francisco voters passed Proposition A, which mandated RCV for local elected officials such as supervisors, the mayor, and others. (School board and community college elections, however, are not RCV ballots.)

By allowing voters to rank a first, second, and third choice for supervisorial candidate (in three different columns on the ballot), voters don't "waste" their vote on their favorite yet possibly impractical candidate.

"With RCV you're liberated to vote for the candidate you really like," said Steven Hill, senior analyst specializing in the electoral system at the Center for Voting and Democracy.

RCV is transparent.

We will have a report from each precinct for each ballot card that says how every single ranked choice ballot was marked," said elections chief John Arntz. "[It's] baseline data to have as a record."

More civilized tone

Past experience and local candidate feedback illustrates that RCV has, so far, had a civilizing effect on district supervisor races.

"It does lend a more cordial environment for folks," said District 9 candidate Miguel Bustos. "But, in the end, people's records speak for themselves; the facts are the most telling."

"I think that's possibly a dynamic when it's a close race," said District 9 incumbent Supervisor Tom Ammann, on RCV's politeness effect. "I don't think mine is a close race. It's contested, but not close."

"We never do negative campaigning. A negative campaign could undermine it, and turns people off, as we see in the presidential race," Ammann added. "I brought instant runoff up in the 1990s but it went down the tubes. I've always been on board with it. It's definitely more democratic. It's the wave of the future."

"We're all getting along real well," said District 5 candidate Jim Siegel. "A bunch of us went to Burning Man together."

Siegel said he especially likes to "hang with candidates with moderate views like myself."

Siegel said that half of District 5's 22 candidates meet together bi-weekly in a "candidates' collaborative" where they have discussed increased Western Addition violence and lobbying for a community center in the 500-unit housing complex planned for Haight and Laguna streets.

"Working together, we've made

little alliances," Siegel said of regular participants Julian Davis, Susan King, Ross Mirkarimi, H. Brown, Francis Sumsall, Mike O'Connor, and Bill Barnes. "We might not agree with everything, but we can agree on some things."

"So far it's been positive," said District 5 candidate Robert Haaland. "But, anything could happen. My understanding of the original intent of it is to try and flesh out issues, areas of agreement. It's definitely worth the while to get all the candidates together to talk and remember what each and every one of us has in common."

On the issue of RCV limiting campaign expenses, Siegel said one race is costly enough without a separate runoff, especially for those candidates unable to raise the individual donations necessary to receive city matching funds.

"I've spent \$25,000 on my race so far and I'll have to spend \$50,000 more," he said.

Siegel listed his expenses, including street signs, running a phone banked campaign office, purchasing lists of registered voters, mailings, Web site construction, and door-to-door brochure distribution at \$10 per hour. "It all adds up," he said.

Haaland affirmed RCV's civilizing effect.

"I believe it keeps people cordial," added Haaland, who held a joint fundraiser with fellow candidate O'Connor, at his Divisadero Street nightclub, The Independent. "Mike is great," he said.

No spoilers

Hill explained how RCV prevents "spoiling" — two candidates who split the vote.

He points to the 2000 election in Florida where Al Gore lost by 537 votes. "[Ralph] Nader took enough votes from Gore to spoil the election," said Hill.

"With RCV, 100,000 Nader voters would have had the choice to rank Gore as second," he said. "Gore and Nader together had the largest center-left vote since Lyndon Johnson."

"If it's that close again in the dozen or so battleground states, a liberal candidate could spoil Bush," Hill said.

"If you're trying to win in the old election system you go negative, attack the candidate," Hill said, which is counter to RCV's diplomatic effect. "But in the optimal way, the incentives are different. You build coalitions, attracting number two votes from the other candidate. You want to be careful of what you say about the other candidates. It might backfire. Find common ground, do it in a more principled way."

"In terms of the District 5 race, there have been a number of comments on how civil it's all been," said Hill. "They're openly courting other candidates' voters. You can't be seen as the one who's trashing will turn off voters."

Hill recalled a West Side race in the last election in which Asian candidates' accusations and name-calling ranged from "pornographer" to "slumlord."

There's also the argument that RCV, by doing away with separate runoff elections, encourages minority voters to cast ballots. San Francisco State University political science professor Rich DeLeon studied RCV's effect on minority voter turnout.

DeLeon's study showed that in runoff elections, voter turnout dropped by 50 percent and dropped even more in minority precincts, disenfranchising minority voters.

"On the campaign finance angle, a separate runoff is more advantageous to the candidate with more money," Hill said. "The Ethics Commission favored instant runoff because in separate December runoffs, independent expenditures increased four times, with money flowing in. The dynamic in place is that it helps the candidate who can raise money fast."

How it works

On Election Day, if a candidate wins over 50 percent of first choice votes, he or she is elected.

If no one wins first choice majority, however, the vote eliminating and transferring process begins, and ranked choices come into play.

The Optech Eagle voting machine used by San Francisco eliminates candidates receiving the fewest first choice votes and transfers the votes to the voter's next choice. Instead of wasting your vote on a losing candidate, you give it to your next choice.

Votes are then recounted. If any candidate wins the remaining vote majority, he or she is elected.

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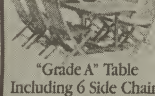
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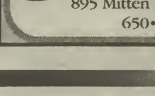


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Budget, homeless top issues in District 5

by Kevin Davis

The 15 District 5 supervisor candidates in last week's forum at the University of San Francisco delineated their platforms most clearly when proposing specific ideas drawn from personal real life experience.

The September 29 forum, handled in two shifts to efficiently let the audience hear from the most candidates possible, was hosted by the Human Services Network, which posed questions pertinent to its 15,000 workers from 100 community-based nonprofit agencies. The candidates tailored their answers to those involved in the nonprofit sector, which included providers of psychological, HIV, counseling, youth employment, homeless intervention, and senior services.

Moderator Steve Fields first challenged candidates to name revenue-producing strategies to deal with the city's \$330 million budget shortfall while increasing services for those who need them.

"People don't know how bad it's going to be if the propositions fail," said candidate Robert Haaland, referring to propositions J, the sales tax increase, K, the city payroll tax



Robert Haaland

measure, and state Proposition 63.

Haaland said he helped collect signatures for Proposition 63, which would provide funds for mental health services throughout the state.

"I organized to stop the closing of the Tom Waddell Clinic and the one in the Castro," he said, clarifying later that he fought to save programs in the Waddell clinic.

"No city worker should get more than \$100,000 per year," said candidate Tys Sniffen, who also advocated streamlining the contracting process.

"The budget grew while the economy tanked," explained candidate Nick Waugh. He championed greater business development, "crucial to the long term health of San Francisco" and named child protective services and mental health outreach as priorities for him. He further decried the "egregious" examples of high salaries at City Hall and promoted his citywide wireless Internet plan.

Candidates Dan Kalb and Susan King lobbied for the creative downtown transportation assessment tax for dedicated Muni funding.

"Downtown reaps the rewards of Muni," said King. "That's why transportation is easier east-west than north-south."

King also listed other ways to raise revenue: Charge market rate for parking by raising the parking tax to 35 percent to spend on street cleaning, and charge ClearChannel more for its Golden Gate Park-staged concerts. Kalb endorsed auditing the Park and Recreation Department.

"Our pockets aren't deep enough," admitted candidate Lisa Feldstein, her sentiment echoing fellow candidate Ross Mirkarimi. Feldstein said the city needs to procure supplementary federal



Lisa Feldstein

and state dollars. "The city can't generate enough local revenue to meet needs," she said.

Mirkarimi proposed modifying aging tax codes. Saying the tax burden falls disproportionately on the poor and small businesses, he set himself apart from the others in stating that Proposition K's threshold of \$500,000 was too low, and instead favored a graduated gross receipts tax.

"Tax measures on the ballot are a cynical response," he said. "We put Propositions J and K on the ballot because we need money quick."

All agreed on streamlining requests for proposals and reporting processes for nonprofits so that agencies could spend more time serving the community and less on paperwork.

Candidate Phoenix Streets suggested providing grant-writing assistance to get the state and federal money nonprofits need.

"Their recruitment capacity - outreach to get people to use the services - is the first part that gets cut," said candidate Brett Wheeler, adding, "The wealth of the city is in property; let's tax it."

Other candidates challenged that thinking.

"My colleagues sound like a broken record," said candidate Joseph Blue. "We have to think outside the box." He provided as an example his soliciting funds from business interests to renovate the Forest-Hill Muni station.

Blue also was critical of outgoing Supervisor Matt Gonzalez, whose decision not to seek re-election has made the race wide open.

"Gonzalez has left the district in disarray, high murder rates, no job development," charged Blue. "Black kids killing black kids, graduating illiterate. We have per capita, the highest murder rate."

The homeless

Moderator Fields next opened up the topic of homelessness, an "intractable epidemic," he said.

"Proposition 63 is critical to a solution," said Haaland of the state ballot initiative that would impose a 1 percent tax on Californians with personal income over \$1 million to provide dedicated funding for expansion of mental health services, thus relieving prisons of housing the mentally ill. "It creates \$48 million, and will make a huge difference."

Most of the candidates either opposed Mayor Gavin Newsom's 10-year Care Not Cash program or believed it needs substantial reform and expansion.

"I wrote op-eds against it, walked precincts against it," said Haaland. "There is no care implemented yet. We need to keep people from becoming homeless, to keep low-income tenants from getting evicted."

Haaland proposed the city offer

one-time emergency grants under \$1,000 to those nearing eviction, "teetering on the edge," as candidate Emmett Gilman put it.

"The real answer is supportive housing," said Haaland, who also campaigned against Proposition M a few years ago.

Other candidates were more blunt.

"Tell them if you're not from here we can't afford to give you a check," said candidate Michael O'Connor.

"It's no good to get off drugs, then go live in the park," said Sniffen. "We need to get them inside, not live in a car for months first." He argued to "redefine classic definitions" of homeless - the mentally ill, addicts, and the poor. But, he conceded there would still be "rebels who don't want to work in the system."

"Judge a society by how it treats the least fortunate among us," said Kalb, who is endorsed by homeless czar Angela Alioto, although he eyes Care Not Cash skeptically. "We need 24-hour psychiatric care to triage."

"We can employ capable and willing homeless who have fallen on hard times," said candidate Julian Davis, who favored employing the homeless in city beautification and recycling projects. "They get ticketed for competing with Sunset Scavenger," said Davis. He also promoted drug treatment on demand, noting the 18-month methadone treatment waiting list.

Davis noted what he sees as "a disturbing recurring theme" that lobbyists seduce supervisors.

"I don't want my representative on the phone with Genentech instead of voting on the issue of biotech," said Davis.

King favored neighborhood homeless services - an information and referral service, with shower, laundry, Internet and restroom facilities, and "a comprehensive list of services, like we have at the Women's Building. The resources we have are hard to find. They say that once you're on the streets it's hard to live a normal life," said King.

Mirkarimi noted changes in the homeless population.

"Now whole families are homeless," said Mirkarimi, adding that Care Not Cash is aimed at only the 2,000 homeless on General Assistance. He called that a drop in the bucket. "With no program to serve them, they fall into economic despair."

"We need to make the shelters safer because the homeless are afraid of getting injured there or have their belongings taken away," said Streets, who advised increasing security at emergency drop-in centers.

He also advocated for the city's youth.

"Focus on youth," said Streets. "Children with nothing to do after school [or] home alone, they're out walking streets. We need internships, tutoring, safe places to go to decrease crime."

Wheeler advocated following New York City's "housing first" model, moving people off the streets, with no strings - such as sobriety requirements - attached, calling their success rate twice as high.

Blue recommended co-opping low-income projects for tenants to build equity and eventually purchase their units. He named Fillmore's St. Francis Square as an example of the program's success.

Gilman called the homeless situation "a disaster," claiming the city spends \$200 million per year on its estimated 15,000 street people, a large percentage of them acute homeless. ▼

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Bill Goldstein of NYTimes.com/books moderates a debate featuring the diverse perspectives of panelists Patrick Califia, Michelle Darné, Thea Hillman, Carol Queen, Greg Wharton and Patricia Nell Warren. Copies of "I Do/I Don't: Queers on Marriage," the new anthology from Suspect Thoughts Press, will be available for sale and signing.



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Homeowner seminar targets HIVers

by Matthew S. Bajko

In what is being billed as the first of its kind, a home ownership seminar set to take place next week is aimed at helping people with HIV or AIDS take part in the quintessential American dream. Hosted and organized by AIDS Housing Alliance, the seminar will bring together HIV-positive people with realtors, money lenders, and city officials to discuss ways they can own their own home.

Brian Basinger, the founder and director of the alliance, reasoned that since people with HIV or AIDS are able to lead productive lives thanks to various medicines and drug cocktails, they should also qualify as home buyers. Couching it as part of the treatment process, Basinger argues that the security of knowing you will not be homeless can help decrease stress levels and allow HIV-positive people to focus their energy on their health.

"Home ownership presents the ultimate safe harbor for people with HIV/AIDS," said Basinger, who is HIV-positive and only last year was facing eviction but recently was able to purchase a condo in the South of Market area. "The simple truth is that many people still don't want to lease to people with AIDS or share their apartments with us. We live

with a cloud of anxiety about losing our rental housing and being unable to find someone willing to rent to us. The stress of potentially losing our home while being substantially ill is itself destructive to our immune systems."

Since creating the AIDS Housing Alliance Basinger said he has learned there are strategies to help HIV-positive people buy a home. From first-time homebuyer programs to special mortgage programs aimed at people with disabilities, Basinger said it is just a matter of educating both people with AIDS and lenders that these programs can benefit the HIV community.

"The reason I pulled this thing together is to educate these decision makers that this can include people with AIDS also. It is new territory. It is new ground," said Basinger, who used the city's inclusionary zoning laws to his advantage.

The city mandates that all new development has to have a set aside of below market rate units. Until now, HIV-positive people really didn't register as a group that could qualify for such housing.

"It is possible; I just did it myself," said Basinger, though he warns other HIVers that "I am not saying it is easy."

Basinger has invited Supervisor Bevan Dufty as well as representatives from Fannie Mae, Citibank, Zephyr Real Estate, Mission Economic Development Association, and the San Francisco Redevelopment Agency to participate in the seminar. Panelists will present an overview of resources available to potential home buyers, including

mortgage packages for disabled people and below market home ownership opportunities.

"I do think it is a new day for people with HIV and actually for people who I happen to know who are friends — they are interested in making a longer term decision. They have much more hope than they have had before in light of all the new drugs that are available," said Jim Prevo, a realtor with Zephyr Real Estate.

The seminar will also address disability benefits and estate planning as well as how Proposition A, the November housing bond, will provide rental and ownership opportunities for people with HIV/AIDS. Basinger said the gay community needs to support the bond because it will allow HIV-positive people to become homeowners.

Prevo said such application of affordable housing is a creative way to provide HIV-positive people the services they require "regardless of their health status." Prevo said just because someone has a life-threatening illness it should not impede them from buying a home.

"I have never seen an opportunity for a person's health status to come up when making an offer on a property and it having any negative impact. The basic affordability question comes into play in a lot of ways and health status is just a part of that," he said.

The seminar will take place from 7 to 9 p.m. Wednesday, October 13 at the LGBT Community Center, 1800 Market Street. Space is limited, to RSVP call (415) 552-3242 or e-mail AIDS Housing@aol.com. ▼

Ranked choice

◀ page 13

If no one wins, the computer repeats runoff rounds until one candidate wins more than 50 percent.

Voters must select a single, different candidate in each of the three columns. The vote machine treats ranking the same candidate in one column as if the voter left columns two and three blank because if the candidate gets eliminated one cannot transfer the vote to his next choice.

Voters can also rank write-in candidates.

The Elections Department plans to process all ballots before determining whether any candidate won first choice majority and cannot predict how long it will take to complete tallying the runoff rounds.

The department prefers not to use the term "instant runoff" as it

implies it will disclose final results immediately, which is unlikely.

If a voter makes a mistake on their ballot, skips a ranking, or votes for the same candidate twice, the machine will issue an "error notification" message and gives the person an opportunity to fix his ballot before casting his final vote, thus decreasing errors and spoiled ballots.

Hill's Center for Voting and Democracy built a special flash animation Web site for San Francisco voters — sfrvcv.com — about ballot completion and vote tabulation. Visitors can vote in mock supervisorial elections and click to tally results.

Samples of the newly designed ballot and RCV instructions can also be found in voter information pamphlets; on the Elections Department Web site (go to www.sfgov.org and click on the Elections Department link), or by calling (415) 554-4375. ▼

Pendulum

◀ page 3

about 2:30 p.m. and took it back to the back patio. A little over an hour later, the bartender was alerted that Carbone was unconscious in the back patio. The bartender told police that he assisted Carbone to the bathroom after Carbone said that he was feeling ill. The bartender said he called 911 after Carbone passed out in the bathroom.

Carbone was conscious and able to talk to paramedics when

they arrived. The medics said he had a strong odor of alcohol on his breath and had slurred speech. The paramedics said they asked him whether he took any medications or had any medical problems and he answered, "No." He did not respond to any further questions.

Jones said that the fight between the suspect and Carbone stemmed from Carbone sunbathing nude in the patio. Jones declined to go into details about the fight but he strongly disputed any suggestion that Carbone's killing may have been racially motivated. ▼

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Marriage Protection Amendment falls short

by Bob Roehr

The antigay Marriage Protection Amendment gained a majority but fell short of the two-thirds majority required for passage in the U.S. House of Representatives. The September 30 vote saw 227 representatives support the measure and 186 oppose it, while 20 did not vote.

The House has been highly polarized along party lines throughout most of this session of Congress, but this vote showed an unusual degree of crossing the aisle in both directions. Black and Hispanic members of both parties were disproportionately among those who simply skipped the vote, while many voted for it.

Some 27 Republicans opposed the MPA, renamed from the Federal Marriage Amendment that was defeated in the Senate this summer. They generally represent districts from the Northeast or West Coast. But 36 Democrats crossed the other way and voted for the MPA. Among the more troubling votes was that of Harold Ford, 35, the dynamic African American representative from Tennessee who many believe has a greater political future ahead of him.

The two and a half hours of debate that preceded the vote had all of the freshness of a Nick at Nite rerun of a decades-old sitcom, but none of the entertainment value.

Social conservatives trotted out their old bromides of the horrors that same-sex marriage would unleash upon the nation.

"We are here today to protect marriage" that is "ordained by God," claimed Congressman Mike Pence (R-Indiana). He declared that in last year's *Lawrence v. Texas* decision striking down state sodomy laws, the Supreme Court "strongly signaled" the right to same-sex marriage. And that is why the MPA is necessary, he said.

Representative Todd Aiken (R-Missouri) asserted that "whole cities have suffered decline and crime" because of a weakening of the traditional family. He said this amendment was "brought on by activist judges"; not adopting it would "deny children a mom and a dad."

Democratic floor leader Jim McGovern (Massachusetts) noted that the speakers highlighted during prime time at the Republican National Convention in New York were all opposed to amending the Constitution. He cited Vice President Dick Cheney's comments that people should be free to enter into relationships and that states may differ on how to handle those relationships.

Openly gay Representative Barney Frank (D-Massachusetts) called the MPA "an undemocratic act that says that no state can differ from your view" when it comes to marriage and families.

"I'm sorry that Rush Limbaugh has been divorced three times, but it ain't my fault," Frank said. "We feel [love] with someone of the same sex, male or female, and we look at your institution of marriage, and we see the joy it brings, we see the stability it brings to society. How do we hurt you if we share in it?"

This amendment "plays to the worst fears of the electorate," said

Congressman John Conyers (D-Michigan). "Everybody knows it is going nowhere" because the Senate refused to pass it, and it is only being brought forward to mobilize the social conservative base on election day, he said.

Representative Jerrold Nadler (D-New York) offered a spirited defense of gay and lesbian Americans, saying they are members of families in every single congressional district. "They deserve to be treated fairly, he said."

Reactions

Log Cabin Republicans Executive Director Patrick Guerriero called the outcome "a stunning defeat for the radical right. This failure sends a clear message to [Colorado Representative] Marilyn Musgrave and [Texas Representative] Tom Delay: stop using the politics of fear to divide America."

Cheryl Jacques, president of

the Human Rights Campaign, called the debate and vote "a pathetic attempt to distract voters from the issues that matter."

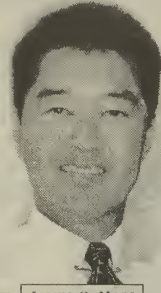
The Republican leadership seemed to recognize the double-edged nature of the issue and perhaps took that into account in scheduling the vote for the same day as the first presidential debate. The move assured that social conservatives would trumpet the news amongst their flock even while the mainstream media limited coverage to a smaller story buried deep inside the paper.

"Republican leaders have shamelessly admitted that they pushed this amendment so that they could create a wedge issue to benefit their candidates in this election," said Dave Noble, executive director of National Stonewall Democrats. "The small minority of Democrats who could not understand that fact, and who voted for

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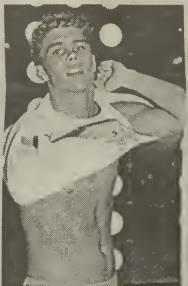
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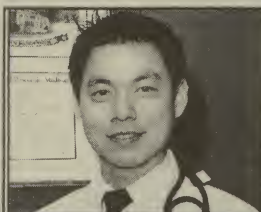
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Bathhouse

◀ page 1

studies have been done regarding the issue have not definitively proven that banning private spaces in bathhouses made much of a difference.

"I think the bathhouses were scapegoated. They became a very convenient scapegoat for the AIDS epidemic. By scapegoating them it became easier to get money to fight the epidemic. Certainly it's had a long range effect in that no new bathhouses have opened in San Francisco," said Reid Condit, who served on the Pride Parade board in 1984 and has long fought the city's banning private spaces in bathhouses. "Closure never really happened—that is a misnomer. Silverman's order was, you know, not followed. Also, it sent a false message too that somehow by closing bathhouses that was going to stop the epidemic."

Decision saved lives

Remembering that period of his life, Silverman, now on the board of the American Foundation for AIDS Research and a consultant for global AIDS efforts, maintains his decision did save lives, though he acknowledges his first choice was never to close down the baths. Instead, he insists he wanted to see the bathhouse owners change their business practices to deal with the AIDS epidemic and for the gay community to pressure them to uphold certain standards and safe sex guidelines. In his view, Silverman said he failed to accomplish that goal and was forced to issue his closure order.



Men gather at the old Ritch Street Baths, circa 1980

"Personally, looking back on it I would have done it the same way. I bent over backwards to work with the community to get them to take action. The educational impact of the gay community standing out in front of the bathhouses saying you can't allow for this to happen is what I tried to do and failed at doing. That was the best that could have happened. Hopefully, the way I did it was the next best," Silverman said in a phone interview this week from his home in Crockett, California.

In the early 1980s Silverman said the attitudes of the bathhouse owners were different than that of sex club owners today, who mostly work with community groups and the health department.

"When people say they are the perfect place to reach people, well it wasn't happening. When bathhouse owners are not cooperative and people are not getting information from that anyway, they were serving no positive purpose. Instead of being a symbol of freedom, this is a symbol of death," he said. "It wasn't an easy decision but I realized I had failed to get the gay community to do it on their part. With the knowledge base in the community what it was, to have these facilities continuing to facilitate the spread of AIDS just wouldn't work," said Silverman.

He defends his approach as appropriate for that time and based solely on protecting the public's health.

"I don't think anyone in the gay community when the thing was over could say Silverman was homophobic or discriminates against gays," he said. "People on both sides thought I was wrong. The mayor wanted me to do it years earlier and some in the gay community probably never wanted me to do it."

By the fall of 1984 gay life in San Francisco had been shaken to its core by the still mysterious illness. Many bathhouses had shut down, their customers too afraid to venture out to have sex or left dying or dead by the disease.

Then-Mayor Dianne Feinstein had been pushing Silverman to shut down the baths, while members of the gay community circulated a petition urging the health director to shutter them. Others fought such a move, decrying it as an invasion on gay men's right to privacy and an attack on gay sexual liberation. Caught in the middle was Silverman, whose life had been threatened and wore a bullet proof vest for four months as a precaution.

"The mayor was pressuring me all the time to close the bathhouses. There was no question in my mind these places spread the disease but 85 to 90 percent of gay

men in San Francisco were being exposed in other venues. To just close them down would have been an exercise in futility," Silverman said.

As recounted in a history of that time by Christopher Disman, Silverman included some gay sex clubs in his order, and left out others, such as the masturbation-only SF Jacks and 1808 Club. The order included all six remaining gay bathhouses in the city. Most of the 14 businesses defied the order—a response which Silverman was fully prepared for, found Disman. The next day, October 10, the city filed a 400-page legal complaint—*California v. Owen et al.*—arguing for the closure of the 14 businesses.

Disman contends that Randy Shilts was wrong when he described Silverman's closure order as "the final act of the San Francisco bathhouse drama" in his book *And the Band Played On*. Silverman's order was the catalyst for a legal fight that dragged on in San Francisco Superior Court for five more years, said Disman.

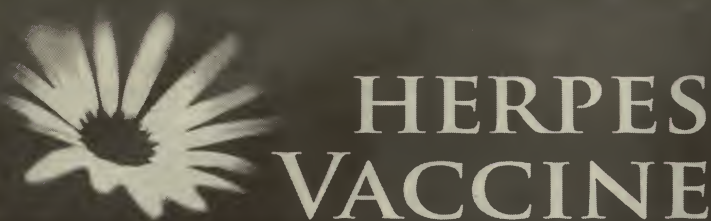
The last ruling for the case was in 1989, and its most important ruling was on November 28, 1984, when Judge Roy Wonder permitted the defendant businesses to remain open on three primary, new conditions: (1) The businesses could include no private rooms where patrons could have sex, (2) The owners were ordered to hire employee monitors to circulate through the premises, and (3) these monitors were to stop any sexual activity by patrons that carried a high AIDS risk.

"The October 9 closure order was not what closed the six remaining San Francisco gay bathhouses. They closed either because the owners did not consider it worthwhile to stay in business under Judge Wonder's new requirements, or because they failed to abide by his ruling," said Disman. "The last gay bathhouse in San Francisco was the 21st St. Baths. It closed in 1987 after being re-prosecuted for allowing patrons to have unsafe sex."

Disman argues that the most significant government decision of 1984 was Judge Wonder's ruling, not Silverman's closure order.

"In my opinion, the real story is not that 14 San Francisco bathhouses and sex clubs successfully defied an October 1984 closure order, but that in November 1984 a set of enduring new regulations were drafted for San Francisco baths and clubs. Since 1984, regulation, not closure, has been the final AIDS-related policy for these San Francisco businesses," he said. ▼

Coming next week: Should the bathhouse ban be lifted?

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Under One Roof celebrates milestone

by Tyson Gillfillan

Last weekend Under One Roof, the Castro Street establishment that is part retailer, part AIDS fundraiser, celebrated \$10 million in sales during its 14-year history. This represents over \$3 million in cash contributions to numerous participating AIDS Service Organizations.

Having weathered numerous challenges over the years, the milestone occurs while the organization is entering a new era, with changes in leadership, newly created board positions, and an IRS reclassification that transforms its accounting practices, and eventually how the store can sell merchandise.

Under One Roof's changes began last year when longtime Executive Director Paul Olsen stepped down, leaving a leadership vacuum that the organization has struggled to fill. Former board chairman Howard Thornton took over in the interim and the board redoubled its search efforts for a permanent replacement in August.

According to agency insiders, the lack of consistent leadership initially caused concerns about the direction the store was headed. "One of the challenges of [the executive director] position," said Thornton, "is communication with the various groups — the over 300 active volunteers, the board of directors, and the ASOs we serve — keeping everyone informed is a very big job." He said the board is "absolutely committed to finding the best person for the position."

Tim Wolfred, director of executive leadership services at CompassPoint, a local nonprofit services consultancy company, said that nonprofits' biggest obstacle in finding qualified upper level management is offering a competitive salary. The previous director's salary at Under One Roof was more than \$80,000, leading some experts to question why it has taken so long to fill the post.

Wolfred thinks Under One Roof's unique structure may make the task difficult. "Unlike most social services organizations, this is a different hybrid. Finding someone with merchandising and nonprofit management skills, crossing the for-profit world with the nonprofit world can be more challenging."

Board member Annie Ellicott, who took over as chair when Thornton became interim director, is excited about the energy that a new leadership core will bring to the organization. Under One Roof is also creating new board positions that will allow for more diverse community participation, and the ASO beneficiaries to have increased involvement in the organization's operations. "The pressure for new ideas has never been greater than now as the AIDS epidemic changes and funding sources diminish," said Ellicott.

According to Thornton, one of the most exciting changes for Under One Roof has been a favorable ruling from the IRS to reclassify the organization, allowing for more simple accounting methods, greater control over the merchandise mix in the store, and

next page ►



From left, Under One Roof's Patrick Noonan, Annie Elliott, and interim Executive Director Howard Thornton congratulate customer Riccardo Gigli, who, with his purchase, pushed the store's total sales to the \$10 million mark.

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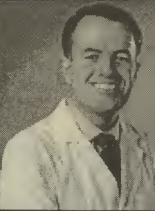
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Judge rejects Misqueez motion for new trial

by Ed Walsh

A judge this week rejected a defense motion to grant a new trial in the case against Brian Misqueez, the 25-year-old East Bay man who was convicted nearly three months ago of second-degree murder for stabbing to death a man he met on the Internet.

On Monday, October 4, Contra Costa County Superior Court Judge John Minney announced that he reviewed the filings by both the prosecution and defense and decided to deny the motion for a new trial. Minney said many of the issues raised by Public Defender Laurie Mont were already properly addressed by the court and that prosecutor Paul Graves's conduct during the trial was within the allowable limits of advocacy.

The attorneys declined to comment to the *Bay Area Reporter* after the hearing. Misqueez was in attendance for the proceeding. He was dressed in the standard mustard-colored jail uniform and showed no visible reaction to the decision. He declined the B.A.R.'s request for an interview after he returned to jail. In previous interviews with the B.A.R., Misqueez said that his lawyer has kept him in the dark about the grounds on which she would ask for a new trial. Misqueez said he would support any possible appeals of his case.

The sentencing hearing is scheduled for October 29. Misqueez previously told the B.A.R. that he plans to speak during that hearing but hasn't decided yet what to say. The family of the victim, Rogelio DeChavez, also plan to speak at what is expected to be a very emotional hearing.

Although the motion for a new

trial was denied, paperwork filed by Mont set up the groundwork for what are likely to be more appeals in the case.

In her argument, Mont listed three reasons why Misqueez should be granted a new trial. First, she argued the jury was afraid of Misqueez's family who had attended much of the trial. Second, Mont said that one of the jurors slept during the trial and that the same juror failed to notify the court in a timely manner that his nephew had been murdered during the course of the trial. Third, the attorney argued that Deputy District Attorney Paul Graves was guilty of misconduct for calling Misqueez "evil" and for "raising the irrelevant issue of remorse." Mont added that Graves set up an "unproven factual scenario" of how the crime took place, and that he implied "with no basis" that the defense coached Misqueez's father to lie.

In his response to Mont's motion, Graves wrote that the court had adequately dealt with the expressed concerns of two female jurors who felt that Misqueez's brother had been glaring at them when they left the courthouse and of the concern of one juror who believed that he had followed her to her car. Graves noted that all of the jurors said they could still be fair and impartial after the issue was discussed in court.

In addressing the issue of the alleged sleeping juror, Graves wrote that although the man appeared to fall asleep during jury selection, the court had ruled that he was not sleeping at the times mentioned by Mont. Graves added that the juror was still impartial despite the murder of his nephew and that the court had already dealt with the issue.

Graves explained in his written response that he acted properly in

his questioning of Misqueez's father, who he said changed his story about when his son first said that he wanted to move to Oregon. Graves noted that the elder Misqueez first told police that his son moved to Oregon in a hurry and that he didn't learn about the move until the day he left, two days after the murder, and that the move came as a surprise to him. On the stand, the father told a very different story. He said that his son told him that he planned to move to Oregon with his girlfriend a week before the killing. Graves noted that the decision of when to move was important because it showed "a consciousness of guilt."

Finally, Graves cited case law that he said proved that he had acted properly in his closing argument in which he laid out a scenario for how he believed the crime happened and for telling jurors that Misqueez is "evil."

Both the prosecution and defense agreed that Misqueez's lack of acceptance of his own homosexual feelings played a major role in the killing. Misqueez stabbed DeChavez 27 times. According to the coroner's report, some of the wounds were inflicted after DeChavez was already dead.

Misqueez faces a sentence of 16-years-to-life in state prison. In a series of jailhouse interviews since his conviction, he told the B.A.R. that he is looking forward to transferring out of county jail. He said that after it was reported in the *Contra Costa Times* that he had solicited sex online with another man, he was moved, for his own protection, to a section of the jail reserved for special custody inmates. He said that he is now let out of his cell just one hour each day and is no longer allowed to mingle with the jail's general population. ▼

Under One Roof

◀ previous page

hopefully, even more money going to its beneficiaries. This increased control will allow store management to more closely focus on stocking best selling items, offering discounts and sales like a more traditional retailer, and develop a broader merchandise mix.

"We'll be able to supplement our gift-store offerings with more home goods and items targeted toward people living in the neighborhood," he said.

Thornton said that economic forces and government funding cuts for AIDS organizations have made the need for more efficiency crucial. He pointed to several ASOs and local retail businesses dissolving in recent years, and said, "Under One Roof is more

necessary than ever."

For the 42 organizations Under One Roof assists and the countless community members they serve, not to mention the board members and volunteers who earnestly support its mission, Under One Roof is more necessary than ever. And as it works toward ringing up the next \$10 million in sales, the organization hopes to be more beneficial than ever, too. ▼

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Veep debate hits on marriage, AIDS

by Bob Roehr

Neither Vice President Dick Cheney nor Democratic challenger Senator John Edwards broke new ground in the responses they offered to questions on same-sex relationships and AIDS during their televised debate from Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland on October 5.

AIDS advocates were disappointed that Edwards did not use the opportunity to point out differences between the two sets of candidates.

Late in the debate, moderator Gwen Ifill recalled Cheney's comments four years ago on same-sex unions and his more recent comment that "Freedom means freedom for everybody." She asked him to square that with the administration's support for a constitutional amendment that would ban same-sex unions.

The vice president reiterated his support for that statement saying, "It's really no one else's business." He also saw "whether or not government should sanction or approve or give some sort of authorization to those relationships as ... a separate issue."

Cheney again said his "preference" was for leaving the issue of marriage to the states. With regard to the Federal Marriage Amendment he said, the president "sets policy for this administration and I support the president."

Edwards first used his time to

talk about tax policy and then praised the Cheney family and their lesbian daughter Mary. He addressed the question by beginning, "I believe that marriage is between a man and a woman, and so does John Kerry." He also expressed support for "partnership benefits for gay and lesbian couples" and "we should not use the Constitution to divide this country."

Ifill asked Edwards, "Aren't you trying to have it both ways?"

No, Edwards replied, reiterating his support for treating gay and lesbian couples "respectfully" while reserving marriage as a union between a man and a woman.

Among the presidential and vice presidential candidates, Cheney is the only one who has not said that the term marriage should be reserved exclusively for a man and a woman.

Ifill asked the men to talk about the government's role in fighting AIDS, "And not AIDS in China or Africa, but AIDS right here in this country where black women between the ages of 25 and 44 are 13 times more likely to die of the disease than their counterparts."

Cheney spent much of his time speaking of what the administration has done internationally. He said, "I was not aware that it was that severe an epidemic" among black women. He touted education, public awareness, and research and concluded, "Obviously we need to do more of that."

Edwards also stressed the in-

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Animal lover, political humanitarian, and mommy and friend to all, Connie was taken from us — kicking and screaming — on August 28. She was 55.

Mother to Bay Area Reporter Assistant Editor Zak Szymanski, Connie had been living with and battling breast cancer for several years, promising and truly believing that she would survive.

A pure and beautiful spirit, she was a caretaker for others until the very end. She spent her final months protesting the Bush administration's policies and contributing to a variety of progressive causes, even while managing to win the affections of those who disagreed with her.

A memorial service was held at the

international side and pledged to double international spending. Domestically he switched it back to the "bigger question" of "45 million Americans without health care coverage," and did not address the question.

"The current regime has been pathetic to say the least," said Chicago advocate Jim Pickett. "But I was extremely disappointed in Sunny Boy's [Edwards's] essentially incoherent and rambling response ... I was hoping the trial lawyer would have skewered BushCo for its flat funding of Ryan White, for its ghastly CDC puppet show, for the \$20 million ADAP Band-Aid, but no, we got a bunch of mush." ▼

Quaker Meeting House in Chappaqua, New York on October 2.

Donations may be made in her name to her favorite San Francisco organizations: Breast Cancer Action (www.bcac-tion.org), and/or The Breast Cancer Emergency Fund (www.bcef-sf.org).

Rest now, sweet mommy.

Dr. Clark L. Taylor, Jr.



Dr. Clark Taylor, Jr. died peacefully on September 27 in San Francisco. Born in Texas in 1937, he came to California in 1960 to study anthropology at UCLA and UC Berkeley. His Ph.D. study of gay

life in Mexico City was among the first such investigations to receive academic recognition. In 1985 he earned a doctorate in sexology at IASHS where he has since been a faculty member.

From the beginning of the AIDS epidemic, he was among the first educators to address the issues of the gay community. With Drs. Rubenstein and Lourea, Taylor founded the Sexologists' Sexual Health Project. World-famous for inflating condoms pulled over his head, Taylor was known as "Doctor Safe-Sex" because of his creativity. Many cherish Clark for his example of total dedication to serious academic research, magical humor and zest for life.

In 2000 the Stop AIDS Project of

San Francisco gave Clark their Puckett Award. The Society of Lesbian and Gay Anthropologists recognized him for his outstanding contributions and passionate support for lesbian and gay issues, both as a scholar and activist.

Jewels and goodies may be sent to Maitri Residential Care for People Living with AIDS, 401 Duboce Ave., SF, CA 94117.

Robert Vasquez Zuniga



Robert Vasquez Zuniga, 62, of Rancho Mirage, California, died July 30, 2004, of cardiorespiratory arrest in San Jose, California. He was born April 30, 1942, to Robert Zuniga and Mary Louise Vasquez in

San Jose. Robert was a gardener for the City and County of San Francisco for 17 years.

Robert is survived by his partner, Bertrand Vaillancourt, also of Rancho Mirage; and two sisters, Rachael Anchondo of Campbell, California, and Diane Zuniga of San Jose.

Private funeral arrangements are under the direction of Oak Hill Funeral Home in San Jose. A memorial for close friends will be held in Rancho Mirage on October 9, 2004.

The family suggests that donations be made to the American Heart Association in Robert's name.

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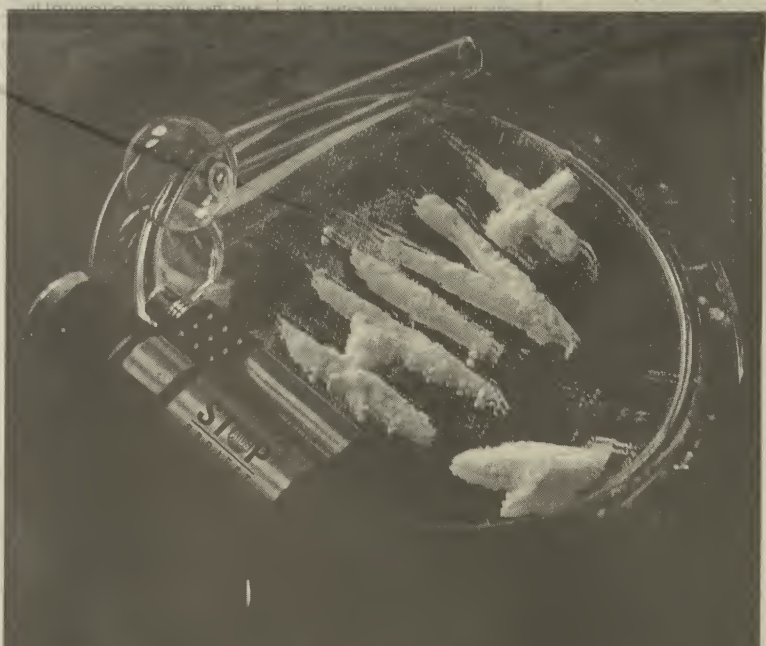
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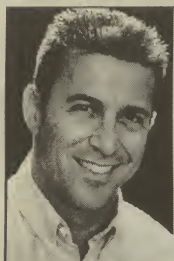


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Making waves

by Jim Provenzano

Only weeks after hurricanes ripped through southern Florida, members of the Nadadores of South Florida are busy preparing for the annual International Gay & Lesbian Aquatics tournament, October 7 to 11, where as many as 1,000 GLBT swimmers, divers, water polo players, and synchronized swimmers will compete.

"If there's another hurricane coming, there's not much we can do," said Jonathan Olsen, IGLA's 2004 co-chair. "We can't change Mother Nature."

Florida has been hit by four hurricanes so far this season: Charley, Frances, Ivan, and Jeanne, which collectively caused millions of dollars in damage and several deaths.

After Hurricane Frances struck, Olsen spent some time cleaning up debris in his yard — "a lot of palm fronds and tree branches," he said — before spending a day processing online and mailed registration forms for the swimming tournament, one of many duties he shares with co-chair Sean Frampton.

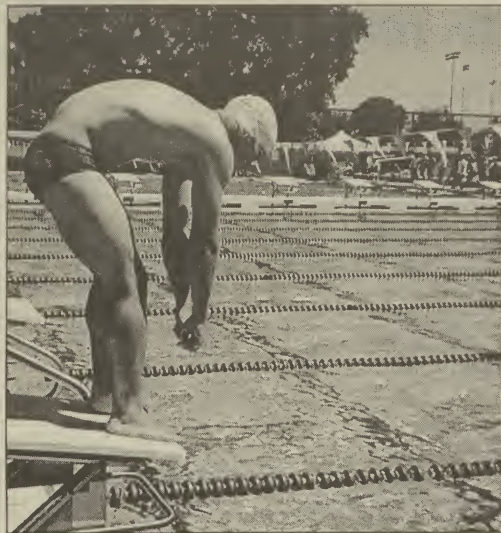
The Nadadores use the Spanish term for swimmers in part to recognize the strong Latino presence among their club members.

As at previous IGLAs, this year's event will have a global presence, with several of the organization's 25 non-U.S. teams participating. Almost 50 American swimming and water polo clubs comprise the bulk of IGLA members.

San Francisco Tsunami President Lisa Congden said about 60 Bay Area Swimmers will trek to Florida for the tournament, almost a dozen of them women. Tsunami Polo will also send its Gay Games VI bronze medal team.

More than 20 swimmers will be arriving from London's Out to Swim, with another few dozen from France's Paris Aquatique team. An entire water polo team will be traveling from Sydney, where Gay Games VI's aquatics events were held at the former Olympic facility in 2002 (IGLA's annual tournaments are held at the Games every four years). Sydney's already swim-happy culture enjoyed a boost in their GLBT sports community after hosting the Games.

"We are very excited to go to Fort Lauderdale," said Lorenzo Benucci of the Atlanta Water Jocks. Originally from Italy, Benucci called AWJ "a spin-off of Atlanta Rainbow Trout" (Atlanta's larger, older GLBT swim club). He and three other swimmers will team up in relays, as well as seek new adult masters personal bests. Benucci broke an adult masters swimming record at 1999's IGLA in Atlanta, and like many gay swimmers, the AWJ also recently



A swimmer takes off at last year's IGLA tournament.

competed at the Adult Masters Summer Long Course Championships, held in Savannah, Georgia, in August.

David Eng, also of AWJ, exemplifies the busy schedule of many ambitious swimmers, with his plans to compete in the 200-meter backstroke, 200-meter breaststroke, 200-meter butterfly, 400-meter Individual Medley, and the 1500-meter freestyle event.

Hosting this year's IGLA tournament has helped the Nadadores grow from around 15 members in 2001 to 45 this season, with many more volunteering to help produce the tournament.

New swim clubs — including swimmers from Phoenix, Arizona, which will send almost a dozen swimmers, and a fledgling team from Charlotte, North Carolina — also get an affectionate welcome.

When the San Francisco Tsunami hosted IGLA 2003 at Stanford's Aquatics Center, they had to bring in their own officials and statisticians. This year, Olsen said that the staff at the Fort Lauderdale Aquatic Complex, where IGLA 2004 will be held, will handle the majority of duties. The complex runs almost a dozen large-scale swim meets each year. It was closed for weeks during the hurricanes, and is located only a few blocks from the shoreline. But no serious damage to the facility occurred.

One event the complex's staff may not be familiar with is the always-hilarious Pink Flamingo, a costumed water ballet competition between clubs, with chorus boys and girls in over-the-top musical numbers fitting each year's theme (this year's is "Fun in the Sun").

This year's IGLA also will include its first-ever open-water swimming competition. Olsen has already received more than 100

applications for the one-mile ocean event. With many IGLA members being seasoned triathletes, it should be an exciting addition to an already packed weekend of competition and social events.

Co-chairing IGLA 2004 is a way of returning the favor of all that swimming has given to Olsen, who has been swimming since childhood and competed at the University of Pennsylvania. He stopped swimming for several years, but returned with the goal of competing at 1994's Gay Games IV. "I quit smoking, started swimming, and haven't had a cigarette since," he said proudly. Olsen has participated in every IGLA tournament since then.

With a \$100,000 budget, the nonprofit group is able to raise funds for other groups, as they did at the Nadadores' recent Splendor party, which raised \$10,000 for local Red Cross children's swimming programs.

Despite a hurricane season that lasts through November, and no alternative plan should more extreme weather engulf South Florida, Olsen remains hopeful that IGLA 2004 will be a success. Even if future storms cause damage, they'll be ready to rebuild and make the event happen.

"I've boarded up my windows three times," Olsen said. "You do what you can. And if they say evacuate, you get out." ▼

Read more sports articles at www.sportscomplex.org. Send your GLBT sports event info to: jimproven@yahoo.com.

For more information

www.igla.org
www.igla2004.com
www.sftsunami.org
www.nadadores.org

Marriage

◀ page 17

this amendment, do not deserve the support of our community."

Some would question whether the 36 votes for the MPA and 11 members not voting — nearly a quarter of the Democratic delegation of 205 — constitutes a small minority. Was the scale of this de-

fection the result of an all out effort by Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi (San Francisco)?

In speaking with reporters earlier in September, HRC's legislative director Christopher Labonte said, "The Democratic leadership has been working their members hard. But this is an election year and members are hearing from volumes of their constituents." It showed in the final vote.

Barry Lynn, executive director of Americans United for Separation of Church and State, said, "This amendment posed a grave threat to the separation of church and state, and I'm delighted that it failed. Some religious traditions perform same-sex unions, and some do not. It's wrong for the government to favor the religious rituals of the majority over the minority." ▼

CLASSIFIEDS

Endorsements

page 6

for LGBT residents. He championed the equal benefit ordinance (along with former Supes Leslie Katz and Susan Leal) and has shouldered the mantle of the gay rights movement, often drawing comparisons to the late Harvey Milk. Ammiano has been there for people living with HIV/AIDS, and has fought to get bureaucratic nonprofit AIDS service organizations to be more responsive to their clients. He is against discrimination of any sort, and has a lengthy legislative record of accomplishment. He has ably represented the city and his district over the years. Ammiano has never shied away from controversy, and on more than one occasion has taken on Christian conservatives and their flawed logic using religion to deny us equal rights.

Because of term limits, this is Ammiano's last run for the board. While this newspaper hasn't always agreed with him, we firmly believe he deserves an opportunity to have a final four years in office.

Miguel Bustos is an energetic candidate who was born and raised in the Mission. More moderate than Ammiano, Bustos has campaigned on the need for more city services in the district, which are sorely needed. Bustos, who like Ammiano is openly gay, has also worked to build support in the Latino community, and that could go a long way in building bridges between LGBT and Hispanic residents. Bustos claims that a new voice needs to represent the district and as a gay Latino, he brings strong credentials to the race.

Voters should give Ammiano their first vote, and, because ranked choice voting allows for up to three selections, Bustos is a good second choice.

District 11 Gerardo Sandoval (first choice) Jose Medina (second choice)

Incumbent Supervisor Gerardo Sandoval took the lead in restoring much needed funds to several AIDS service organizations during the city's budget negotiations this year. Faced with devastating cuts in federal funding, Sandoval and his colleagues on the board did the right thing in helping PWAs to continue receiving vital services such as benefits counseling, case management, and other practical support. Two years ago, Sandoval cast one of nine votes in favor of the medical benefits for transgender city employees; and, while he had to be talked into it by fellow board members, in the end he did the right thing, unlike Tony Hall and Leland Yee, his colleagues at the time who voted against it. We don't always agree with Sandoval, but when push comes to shove, he stands up for the community.

Former Supervisor Jose Medina wants his old job back. He has a long record of working with the LGBT community, including reaching out to the Catholic Church. He supports same-sex marriage. He told us he is committed to making San Francisco a

better place for everyone. As a former police commissioner, he said he supports recent changes to the commission and favors allocating more funds to the Office of Citizens Complaints, the police oversight agency. As with districts throughout the city, public safety has emerged as a leading issue in District 11, and Medina said more beat cops are necessary in the neighborhoods. Medina said that he would be more responsive to the district than the incumbent and we believe he would make a good choice.

We recommend voting for Sandoval as a first choice, and Medina as a second choice.

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Heather Hiles, Mark Sanchez, Joel Springer III, and Jill Wynns

Heather Hiles, who was appointed to the school board earlier this year by Mayor Gavin Newsom, exudes energy and commitment to public schools and brings a passion to her work that's hard to match. An out lesbian, Hiles is a supporter of Superintendent Arlene Ackerman and has criticized the more progressive faction on the board and wants to develop programs to help students rather than engage in political backbiting. We couldn't agree more. When we met with her, Hiles spoke of several programs she's helped get off the ground, including "Dream" schools that have longer school days for students, and vocational programs that she's helped implement with the help of the private sector. In a crowded field of candidates, Hiles stands out and should be elected to a full term.

We're endorsing out gay incumbent Mark Sanchez, because we think he's been an effective board member. While he and Hiles often disagree, we believe it's good to have a school board that's not a passive body always deferring to the superintendent. We've seen many instances in other Bay Area school districts in which weak school boards led to massive financial problems. This is not to knock Ackerman, who we believe has done a good job, but voices like Sanchez's are needed too.

Gay Republican Joel Springer III faces a tough race in Democratic San Francisco. But we're endorsing him because he has a lot of common sense ideas to improve the district, and because he has stood up to the San Francisco Republican Party in opposing President Bush's support of a constitutional amendment banning gay marriage. Springer's action cost him the support of the local GOP, even though he was recruited by that body to run for the school board in the first place.

Jill Wynns has long served ably on the board and has been a strong supporter of diversity and tolerance in the public schools. She deserves to be re-elected.

COMMUNITY COLLEGE BOARD

We're endorsing incumbents this time around - Natalie Berg, Milton Marks III, Julio Ramos, and Rodol Rodis are all capable board members and deserve reelection. ▼

BAY AREA REPORTER CLASSIFIEDS

LEGAL NOTICES

CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO CONCESSION OPPORTUNITIES AT SAN FRANCISCO INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

San Francisco International Airport will conduct an Informational Conference for the Retail Vending Lease ("Lease"). At this conference, staff will discuss the desired concept, minimum qualification requirements, address any questions relating to this Lease and receive comments from participants.

The Lease is for a term of five (5) year with option to extend. Tenant for this Lease will be required to install, operate and maintain vending machines in the Premises (International Terminal) for the sale of retail merchandise and limited snacks and beverages. The minimum acceptable bid amount for this Lease is \$6,000, which will be the successful bidder's minimum annual guarantee for the first year.

The Informational Conference will be at 10 a.m., on Wednesday, October 13, 2004. The Conference will be held in the 4th Floor Conference Room, in Terminal 2.

Information and documents can be obtained by calling Vic Bartolome of Airport Revenue Development and Management at (650) 821-4500.

PAID INTERNSHIP AVAILABLE

One year (with the option of a 2nd year) Environmental Associate for School Education at the San Francisco Department of the Environment. \$15.83 per hour. www.sfdenviroment.com. Applications due Friday October 8th, 2004.

SAN FRANCISCO DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Free or low-cost health care. (800) 300-9950. If you or someone you know needs immunizations, check-ups, dental care, birth control, pregnancy testing, or prenatal care, call us. We are here to help women, teens, and children find free or low-cost health care. The San Francisco Department of Public Health provides referrals to clinics, doctors, and dentists in San Francisco. Our English, Spanish, Cantonese, and Mandarin speaking staff are here to take your call. Monday through Friday from 8:00am to 5:00pm

WIC Program
Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), Supplemental Nutrition Program provides nutrition education, food vouchers, and breastfeeding support for pregnant women, postpartum women, infants, and children younger than five. Vouchers are picked up at a WIC site on a monthly/bi-monthly basis and may be exchanged for milk, cheese, eggs, cereal, juice, peanut butter/beans, and infant formulas in most grocery stores. All WIC services are free of charge. For more information, please call (415) 575-5788.

BLACK INFANT HEALTH IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

The Black Infant Health Improvement Program (Bi-Hip) is a free program that provides supportive services to pregnant and parenting African American women with children up to 2 years of age. If you or someone you know is a woman that needs help finding a doctor, getting to appointments, connecting to community resources, preparing for a new baby, or just someone to talk to, please call Bi-Hip at (415) 671-0214.

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

The following documents are available online at: www.sfgov.org/bdsuprvr/
Agendas/Boards/Commissions Application and Vacancy Notices; District Information; Final Board Minutes; Legislation Introduced; Legislative Analyst Reports; Meeting Schedules; Motions; Ordinances; Resolutions; Rules of Order; Votes and more.
The Charter and Municipal Codes are available on the City's web site: www.sfgov.org

ANIMAL CRUELTY IS A CRIME

San Francisco Animal Care and Control is responsible for the enforcement of all state and local animal control and welfare laws. If you see an animal being abused or neglected, or witness illegal activity involving animals, please call us at 554-9400 immediately.

STATEMENT FILE A-0279064-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Gaiairon 38 Mason St. San Francisco, Ca. 94103. This business is conducted by a limited liability company, signed Mike Majerus. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 9-07-04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 9-07-04.

SEPT. 16, 23, 30 OCT. 7 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0279073-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Chl. Hardwood Floor 70 Winding Way San Francisco, Ca. 94112. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Lou Chi-Hang. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 7-19-00. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 9-08-04.

SEPT. 16, 23, 30 OCT. 7 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0279077-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Angela's Cleaning Service 419 Holloway Ave. San Francisco, Ca. 94112. This business is conducted by a husband and wife, signed William Cornejo. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 9-08-04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 9-08-04.

SEPT. 16, 23, 30 OCT. 7 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0279065-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: NCT Food & Entertainment 208 Pennsylvania St. #106 San Francisco, Ca. 94107. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Samaria A. Peralta. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 9-07-04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 9-07-04.

SEPT. 16, 23, 30 OCT. 7 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0278806-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Eye Carumba Optometry 709 Embarcadero Center, Lobby Level San Francisco, Ca. 94111. This business is conducted by a corporation, signed Paul G. Irving. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 8-19-04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 8-26-04.

SEPT. 16, 23, 30 OCT. 7 2004

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE # CNC 04541516

In the matter of the application of Erin Nicole Cooper for change of name. The application of Erin Nicole Cooper for change of name having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Erin Nicole Cooper has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Erin Iris Nicole Fae. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 19th day of October, 2004 at 9:00 am of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.

SEPT. 16, 23, 30 OCT. 7 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0279066-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Enhanced Sales Potential 4406 18th St. San Francisco, Ca. 94114. This business is conducted by an individual, signed John Musser. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 7-26-04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 9-07-04.

SEPT. 16, 23, 30 OCT. 7 2004

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE

STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO
FILE # CNC 04541536

In the matter of the application of Elizabeth Jaleh Yaghoobi for change of name. The application of Elizabeth Jaleh Yaghoobi for change of name having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Elizabeth Jaleh Yaghoobi has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Elizabeth Anne Yaghoobi. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 28th day of October, 2004 at 9:00 am of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.

SEPT. 16, 23, 30 OCT. 7 2004

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE # CNC 04541550

In the matter of the application of Steve Suseoff for change of name. The application of Steve Suseoff for change of name having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Steve Suseoff has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Steve Susoyev. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 26th day of November, 2004 at 9:00 am of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.

SEPT. 16, 23, 30 OCT. 7 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0279243-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Excellent Automotive Service and Repair 740 Valencia Street San Francisco, Ca. 94110. This business is conducted by an corporation, signed Ronald J. Wallia. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on NA. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 9-14-04.

SEPT. 16, 23, 30 OCT. 7 2004

NOTICE OF APPLICATION TO

SELL ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

To whom it may concern: The Name of the Applicant(s) is/are: Fronterra, LLC. The applicants listed above are applying to the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control at 185 Berry Street, Suite #5600 San Francisco, Ca. 94107, to sell alcoholic beverages at: 965 Mission Street, STE 160, San Francisco, Ca. 94103. Type of License applied for:

42 - ON-SALE BEER & WINE -

PUBLIC PREMISES

SEPT. 30 OCT. 7, 14 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0279286-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Dynamic Introvers 35 Divisadero St. San Francisco, Ca. 94112. This business is conducted by co-partners, signed Keilana Andaya. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on NA. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 9-15-04.

SEPT. 23, 30 OCT. 7, 14 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0279380-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Four Wet Feet, For Wet Feet, 4 Wet Feet, 4247 21st St. San Francisco, Ca. 94114. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Robert S. Fullmer. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on NA. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 9-20-04.

SEPT. 23, 30 OCT. 7, 14 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0279406-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: CapirasBing Consulting, 23 Richard Ave. San Francisco, Ca. 94110. This business is conducted by a general partnership, signed Jennifer L. Bing. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 9-15-04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 9-21-04.

SEPT. 30 OCT. 7, 14, 21 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0279453-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: St. Francis Apartments, 1126 Bush St. San Francisco, Ca. 94109. This business is conducted by a general partnership, signed Jimmy Chan. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 6-29-92. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 9-22-04.

SEPT. 30 OCT. 7, 14, 21 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0279441-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: One Good Deed, 1332 10th Ave. #304 San Francisco, Ca. 94122. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Kathy Elliott. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 9-21-04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 9-21-04.

SEPT. 30 OCT. 7, 14, 21 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0279433-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Cafe Mars/The Truckstop Cafe, 798 Brannan St. San Francisco, Ca. 94103. This business is conducted by a limited liability company, signed David Kieley. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on NA. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 9-21-04.

SEPT. 30 OCT. 7, 14, 21 2004

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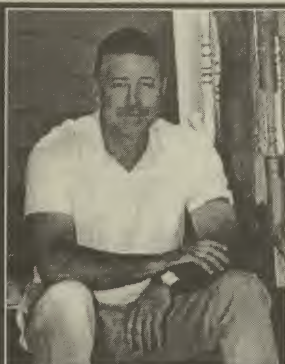
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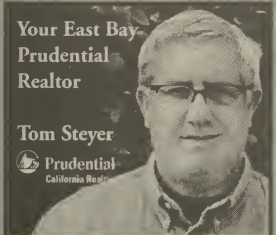
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LEGAL NOTICES

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE
STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND
FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE # CNC 04541542

In the matter of the application of Catherine Emi Izuo for change of name. The application of Catherine Emi Izuo for change of name having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Catherine Emi Izuo has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Jadeblue Lotos. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 4th day of November, 2004 at 9:00 am of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.

SEPT. 16, 23, 30 OCT. 7 2004

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE
STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND
FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE # CNC 04541566

In the matter of the application of Jennifer Karen Roofl for change of name. The application of Jennifer Karen Roofl for change of name having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Jennifer Karen Roofl has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Jennifer Katherine Roofl. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 30th day of November, 2004 at 9:00 am of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.

OCT. 7, 14, 21, 28 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0279418-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Cooks Boulevard, 1309 Castro St. San Francisco, Ca. 94114. This business is conducted by a limited liability company, signed Malcom Haar. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 9-10-04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 9-21-04.

OCT. 7, 14, 21, 28 2004

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE
STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND
FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE # CNC 04541572

In the matter of the application of Rita Ravindra for change of name. The application of Rita Ravindra for change of name having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Rita Ravindra has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Rita Addante Ravindra. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 2nd day of December, 2004 at 9:00 am of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.

OCT. 7, 14, 21, 28 2004

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE
STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND
FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE # CNC 04541535

In the matter of the application of Saul Juan Antonio Leyva for change of name. The application of Saul Juan Antonio Leyva for change of name having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Saul Juan Antonio Leyva has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Rafael Leyva-Lara. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 4th day of November, 2004 at 9:00 am of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.

SEPT. 16, 23, 30 OCT. 7 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0279714-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: RM Promotions, 547 Alvarado St. San Francisco, Ca. 94114. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Rafael Monterrosa. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 10-01-04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 10-01-04.

OCT. 7, 14, 21, 28 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0279215-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Farah Smoke Shop, 2345 Mission St. San Francisco, Ca. 94110. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Ismail Ahmad Karajah. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 9-13-04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 9-13-04.

OCT. 7, 14, 21, 28 2004

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OCT. 7, 14, 21 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0279610-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Priscila Janitorial Service, 2976 24th St. San Francisco, Ca. 94110. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Carlos Arila. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 9-29-04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 9-29-04.

OCT. 7, 14, 21, 28 2004

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE
STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND
FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE # CNC 04541570

In the matter of the application of Leonid Krivopaltsev for change of name. The application of Leonid Krivopaltsev for change of name having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Leonid Krivopaltsev has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Leonard Gestrin. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 2nd day of December, 2004 at 9:00 am of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.

OCT. 7, 14, 21, 28 2004

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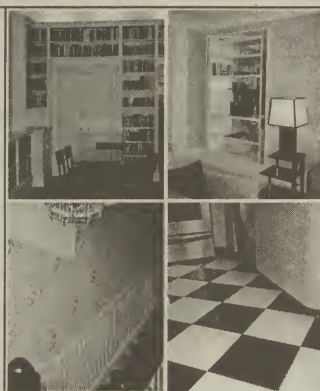


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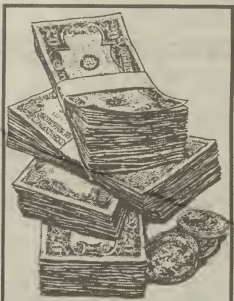
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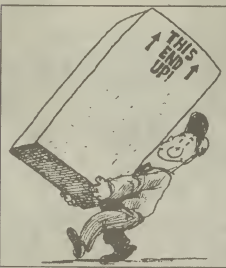
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page 33

'Opposite' attracts
Magic Theatre's musical
'Opposite of Sex' opens.

page 32



Dogs for peace
Bruce Weber's 'Letter to
True' plays the Castro.

page 31



ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 34 • No. 41 • 7 October 2004

Sailor's song San Francisco Opera finds its sea-legs

by Stephanie von Buchau

I would suggest, though you are free to disagree, that Benjamin Britten's 1951 *Billy Budd* is the first and still the most important opera with an unambiguous homosexual subtext. The new production at San Francisco Opera ignores the subtext in favor of the more trendy, ecumenical theme of capital punishment, heavily flogged in the program book, but unless you are deaf, dumb and blind, there is no way you cannot realize that John Claggart has to destroy Handsome Billy (or "Beauty," as his shipmates call him) because he can't admit to himself that he desires the young sailor.

Even more telling is the conflict of Capt. Edward Fairfax Vere, who narrates the opera's details in a painful prologue and epilogue. Vere, following "the law to the letter" (to crib from *Les Misérables* by Victor Hugo, a contemporary of Herman Melville, author of the novella *Billy Budd, Foretopman*), allows the inarticulate seaman to be hanged for the crime of striking and killing a superior officer, even though everybody knows Billy is absent malice, and that Claggart had it coming.

Unnecessarily reducing a richly complicated psychological drama to a political screed, à la *Dead Man Walking*, is doubly unfortunate in this case because in local debutant Kim Begley, SFO has the best Vere I've ever heard, a tenor capable of all the nuances that suggest Vere actually condemns Billy because of his fear that releasing him would mean Vere burned with the same forbidden desires for the handsome

sailor that brought about Claggart's downfall.

On the other hand, if you already know and love this opera, you can easily read between the lines of Begley's performance and play out Vere's repressive psychology in your own head. The tenor does nothing to get in your way, singing with both power and tenderness, and acting as if his underwear were on fire and he doesn't let anyone know. This very powerful, moving performance confirmed what I've always thought about *Billy Budd*. Despite the title, it is Capt. Vere's opera.

Musically, SFO drove home the point by presenting the original 1951 version of the opera that had premiered at Covent Garden with Britten conducting and his lover, Peter Pears, as Capt. Vere. I know I rag on SFO's tipsy musicology, but this time music director Donald Runnicles hits the nail square on the head. His reputation as a Strauss and Wagner conductor is earned, but to my ears, his best work here has been with more modern scores, specifically multiple Britten operas and the Tippett he conducted for the Opera Center a few years ago.

I don't think it has anything to do with his nationality, but with some harsh contemporary truth in the music that appeals to his personality. These are very difficult operas to pull off, yet Runnicles makes them sound

page 40 ►



William Gould as Billy Budd.

Larry Markie



Von Blondenberg Sisters as the Bush Twins, will be part of the fun

Bye-Bye, Bushy 'The George Bush Going Away Party'

by Adam Sandel

Here in San Francisco, we're not shy about expressing our political opinions. When world events hang in the balance, we organize, we protest, we march, and this Saturday night at the Herbst Theatre, we'll laugh.

The George Bush Going Away Party: An Evening of Pre-Election Political Comedy is certain to rally the anti-Dubya troops in true San Francisco style: with comedy, satire and drag queens.

Comics Greg Proops (*Whose Line Is It Anyway?*), Diane Amos (*"The Pine Sol Lady"*), Bill Santiago and Betsy Salkind will undoubtedly skewer the Commander-in-Chief. Amos Glick and Ed Holmes of the SF Mime Troupe will appear as Bush and Dick, and the faux First Family will include Arturo Galster as Laura Bush, the Von Blondenberg Sisters as the Bush Twins, and Anita Cocktail as the mother of all Bushes — Big Barbara.

Comedy event producer Lisa Geduldig has been steadily moving into the political fray over the past few years. She's produced two comedy fundraisers

for Supervisor Tom Ammiano and last year's *Make Laugh, Not War* event.

"I noticed that there's not much political comedy in San Francisco anymore, and after 9/11, I realized I didn't have a choice," she said. "Last year's *Tomapalooza* event was three days before the recall election, and everyone was worried about the prospect of Schwarzenegger as governor. We really need to laugh in these times, and afterwards, people thanked me."

Geduldig admitted that throwing a *George Bush Going Away Party* is a case of wishful thinking writ large. But, regardless of the outcome of the Presidential race, it's sure to provide a welcome release for like-minded liberals.

Geduldig isn't quite sure what these divas will be doing in the show, but said, "When you've got drag queens coming forward to impersonate the Bush women, it's best to just give them artistic freedom."

Bush whack

Amos (pronounced "Ah-mos") Glick has found himself very much in demand over the past few years

page 40 ►

SECOND OF TWO SECTIONS

Supreme Court sex parties

We nominate the Carlson Twins to the high court

by Roberto Friedman

Maybe he meant "voraciously," because it's also a multisyllabic word that begins with a "v," but in last week's televised debate, our self-appointed War President actually said that the enemy was fighting "vociferously." Maybe the enemy has a better vocabulary, and knows how to use it. Memo to first lady Laura Bush: Your literacy campaign begins at home.

But you know how hard it is sometimes to actually accomplish communication. San Grandisco's very own *vox populi* Strange de Jim sends Out There word that he just missed running into Aussie megastar Dame Edna at ye olde Folsom Street Fair a few weekends



The young Justin Bond.

back. But since he knows she reads our column, "Could you tell her the answer to what she asked at Megastars Anonymous is, 'Johnny Depp, maybe Madonna, ex-

cuse me, Esther?' Thanks."

No problem, Strange. Hey, if there's anyone out there whose cat has gone lost, or needs to sublet a studio, that's just what this space is for. Example of our public service: SF artist/writer Rodney O'Neal Austin claimed to Out There that former chanteuse Justin Bond, who recently gave a farewell performance as half of Kiki and Herb at NYC's Carnegie Hall, has been using his material without credit for years.

Rodney wanted us to set forth the published evidence in the case of a quip he invented, namely, "Generally, I've always been drawn to the heroic, and all my heroes are ladies."

In 1991, Bond correctly attributed the phrase in his BAR column "Glam on the Rampage" when he wrote, "But then, as Rodney says, 'All my heroes are ladies.'" But lordy, all these years later, Bond is still using the line, this time without any credit. In a Planet magazine interview with actress Tilda Swinton this year, Bond dispensed with commas and wrote, "Generally I've always been drawn to the heroic and all my heroes are ladies."

To be fair, Bond served clear warning of intention in his BAR column of 11/14/91: "We went to Cobb's Comedy Club and saw Judy Tenuta. Since Madonna stole the Boy Toy line, and Roseanne Barr, I mean Arnold, stole the Domestic Goddess line from her, we figured we could steal some material and build great, big, self-indulgent careers like they did." How oddly prophetic.

Out There will leave the two of these larger-than-life characters to work it out amongst themselves. But, to paraphrase Bumbly Bushie in last week's TV debate, we know how hard hand-to-hand combat can be! We seen it on the TV screen!

Gang bangs

Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia sure made some revealing comments during a recent speech at Harvard University. He was talking about the number of people needed for group sex. It's an area of real concern to him.

According to The Harvard Crimson, Scalia ridiculed a European court decision that struck down British legislation barring group gay sex on the ground that the law intruded upon private life. He asked rhetorically how many people it takes for such sex.

"Presumably it is some number between five and the number of people required to fill the Coliseum," Scalia noted — somewhat arbitrarily, OT might add. Does four not constitute group sex in the Scalia bedroom? Just another ho-hum foursome tied to the four-poster? Scalia also jested, apparently, that "sexual orgies eliminate social tensions and ought to be encouraged."

WTF! This is the gargoyle who we are allowing to decide our Presidential elections? Give us old-school Pres. Jimmy Carter lusting in his heart any old schoolyard. But now we wonder just how much group action was going on amongst Scalia, awful meanie VP Dick Cheney and co. down at the lodge, after a full day of chummy duck-hunting in thigh-high rubber wading-boots.

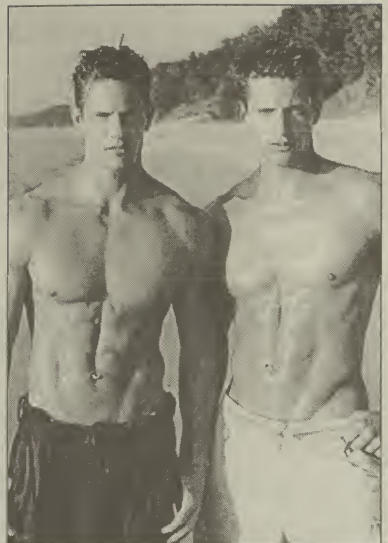
OMG, OT is only japing. Of course, we agree with Scalia! Sexual orgies do eliminate social tensions, and ought to be encouraged. Now do we get invited to the ducks 'n' dicks party?

Push twins

Hey, we have a promising pair of candidates to get Antonin Scalia's sex-partner number up to five: Abercrombie & Fitch poster boys Kyle & Lane Carlson! Maybe they can even volunteer as debate coaches for Bushie after the gangbang and a cigarette!

When the Carlson twins appeared seminude on the cover of the last A&F quarterly, the brand, lately known for its casually racist Y-shirts, shot way back up on the gaydar. Their publicist admits the boys have looks that "make boys and girls go weak at the knees." Kyle and Lane are 23 years old; both are 6 ft./2 in. tall. "An unusual fact about these two boys is that they co-own a construction company, thinking ahead to their futures if they don't continue to rack up the modeling awards." So smart!

Who are these Minnesota-reared, beef-fed twins? P.R., please. "From working the catwalk for Armani, being Abercrombie cover boys, modeling for L'uomo Vogue, Details, Out, and Men's



OT's choice for next two Supreme Court appointments.

Journal, the twins have also appeared on MTV's Mandy show and in The New Yorker, Minnesota Monthly and The New York Times." Well, we hope they had some clothes on in Minnesota, it be cold there. But we don't see how K&L could possibly be hotter. thecarlsonwins.com

Fox behavior

"I'm metrosexual — he's a cowboy!"

"Didn't my nails and cuticles look great?"

"Women should like me! I do manicures!"

These were supposed to be quotes from Presidential challenger John Kerry in which the candidate evaluated his own debate performance, according to an article posted on the Fox News website.

Until Fox had to retract all the quotes as outright lies. Fox star reporter Carl Cameron had a "lapse in judgment," and made it all up. Strange, isn't it, how CBS and Dan Rather get raked over the coals for similar lapses, but Fox News somehow gets a pass. Offering up a passel of lies as "fair & balanced" — that's "hard work!"

Saw Stanley Kubrick's Dr. Strangelove at the Castro Theatre last weekend, and boy, even though it was about the cold war, did the 1964 film ever feel timely! If he were still alive today, Peter Sellers could play Bush, Cheney and Rumsfeld in the TV-movie of the last four years, which we'd title Warlords of Mass Destruction.

Stalk circle

Amusing gay celeb sight 'ems among the bounty of stalker reports on Gawker last week:

"Saw Anderson Cooper walking his Springer Spaniel down E. 39th St. last night. Man, is he hot, for a gay. Has white-silver hair and very lanky. I love him. But I'm on the wrong team."

"While eating lunch on Hudson Street this afternoon, I spotted soon-to-be former NJ Governor Jim McGreevey strolling with a middle-aged woman who was definitely not his soon-to-be ex-wife. Someone whispered that the buxom blonde was a real estate agent and that McG is aching for a place in the West Village. First he switches teams, and now he's switching states! At least he's steering clear of Chelsea — the last thing I need is to see him cruising Eighth Ave."

Oh, and Vince Gallo, looking like "Marty Feldman on a cell phone," but surely by now he's old news. ▼

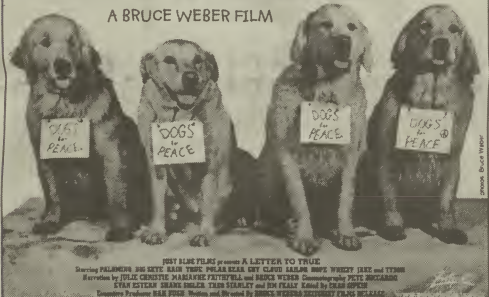
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FILM

One 'True' thing

Bruce Weber on dogs and war

by Robert Julian

Bruce Weber is best known for his still photography and the iconic nudes he produces for those Abercrombie & Fitch catalogs. Although Weber has lived with the same woman for many years, the homoerotic content of his male images is undeniable. Weber's forays into feature-length filmmaking are idiosyncratic, and *A Letter to True* is the latest addition to his exceptionally lyrical catalog of documentaries.

This time around, Weber narrows his vision to focus on two subjects: his love for his dogs and the horrors of war. Weber opens the film in black-and-white, with

a very Abercrombie image of a naked young woman rolling around on the floor, loosely wrapped in a sheet and holding a motion-picture camera. He cuts back and forth between the woman and images of his own hand as he writes a letter to his youngest dog, True. Then the opening credits roll, and we're off on a typically Weberian odyssey of sight and sound.

Large sections of the film are devoted to his randy band of Labrador Retrievers, who romp around the grounds of Weber's Long Island seaside home, running in the surf and jumping in his swimming pool. Sometimes they lounge on the white slip-covered sofa, and occasionally they are photographed wrapped in

blankets—the poor man's answer to William Wegman's elegant Fay Wray.

These segments of canine abandon are accompanied by Weber's voiceover narration in which he professes his strong connection to the animals and his concerns for their safety after the tragic events of September 11, 2001. There are more than a few images of war and its consequences, many from the Vietnam era, when Weber was attending film school at New York University.

Weber's impressionistic montage includes home movies of the late Dirk Bogarde; stills of Elizabeth Taylor; and footage from her early starring role in *The Courage of Lassie*; and an excerpt from the television series *Rin Tin Tin*. Musical accompaniment includes selections from Doris Day, Blossom Dearie, Jimmie Durante, Ella Fitzgerald, and Bon Jovi. As you might imagine, any attempt to categorize or reduce *A Letter to True* to a chronological narrative would be simply futile.

Weber's last film, *Chop Suey* (2001), provided an overview of his life, with particular emphasis on the things that inspired him and led to a career in photography. *A Letter to True* is equally personal and more moving than its immediate predecessor. Although five cinematographers are credited, there is no denying that first, last, and always, *A Letter to True* is a Bruce Weber film. Weber is a sweet, poetic soul whose seemingly heartfelt musings result in films



Weber professes his strong connection to his canine companions.

that are consistently more than the sum of their parts. It's quite possible you'll both laugh and cry during *A Letter to True*, and walk out of the theater with your own bittersweet recollection of life's joys and sorrows. In this sense, Weber once again proves himself

capable of reflecting the complex realities of the human experience as well as anyone. ▼

A Letter to True plays the Castro Theatre October 8-13.

Abercrombie-style images compete with the dogs in *A Letter to True*.

Wasted on rock 'n' roll

'Dig!' the frontmen from W. Coast bands

by David Lample

Have you ever dreamed of moving in with your favorite rock band? Getting to know the guys so well that you know things you might not wish to know? Ondi Timoner got to live the dream with two cutting-edge bands. Beginning a couple of years after Kurt Cobain's suicide threatened to put a final chapter on the unruly world of alternative rock, Timoner persuaded the leaders of two West Coast bands to let her document their decidedly unruly lives.

In *Dig!*, we meet Anton Newcombe, the messianic mad prophet of The Brian Jonestown Massacre (BJM), a band whose internal fights were so demoralizing that nearly 40 musicians joined and left its ranks over the seven years of the shoot. BJM was a band that could often appear, even to its members, more of a cult than a musical organization. But it was also a band whose leader produced 11 albums over a decade, an output that prompts a rival musician to exclaim in awe and envy, "Their records will go on to be collectors' items. We may just be forgotten."

While Anton Newcombe could come off as if he were Quentin Tarantino channeling Rasputin, Timoner's other subject, blond bombshell Courtney Taylor of the

Dandy Warhols, is cool and smooth as the other side of the pillow.

Early on, we get an indiscreet hint about Newcombe's feisty leadership style when a musician jokes about the *Clockwork Orange*-type atmosphere audiences had come to expect. "People went to a BJM concert to see if Anton would punch out the bass player."

Throughout the film, BJM gigs break up into shouting matches or fistfights. Occasionally, there is also the gentler anarchy of the sight of two boys kissing on stage. All this rock nihilism makes a lot more sense when we get to meet Newcombe's parents: the tough-love mom who boasts of leaving Anton with the local cops after he broke curfew for the umpteenth time, and the dad who shamefacedly admits that his drinking led him to abandon Anton and his mom. Dad is proud of Anton's gift to him of a BJM album, *Thank God for Mental Illness*.

Cover material

The director's opinion of her leads comes into focus as we observe Taylor narrating and spinning their story, while Newcombe, the real star, often appears as if he's in a remake of *The Fugitive*. At one point, Taylor's Dandies actually drop in on the BJM's crashpad because its almost lethal air of chaos makes a perfect faux setting for a Dandy Warhols album cover.

Taylor's wry style stresses New-

combe's shortcomings ("There's an anticipation of disaster at every BJM concert,") while giving a much softer landing to his group's setbacks, like the flop of a trendy single. "When 'Heroin' didn't break into the Top 10, the suits were clearly upset that we weren't an overnight success."

Ironically, *Dig!* was sparked by the friendship of Newcombe and Taylor, and their hatred for the major record labels. In the course of the film, Newcombe sticks to his principles, which, along with a substantial heroin habit, torpedoes virtually any chance that BJM's albums will sell. While the Warhols also flirt with commercial disaster, Taylor manages to parlay their success on the European pop charts into an Oregon recording-studio complex that gives band members an asylum of financial self-sufficiency and sanity. In the end, they can pass themselves off as grownups surviving in a kids' world.

One wishes that Timoner had been able to include more music, the reason her sexy subjects ran off to join the rock circus in the first place. Fans who attend Friday's opening screenings of *Dig!* at the Embarcadero Cinemas will meet ex-BJM musician Joel Gion, the sexy boy with the mutton-chop sideburns who also had to flee Anton's despotic integrity.

Newcombe's BJM website includes a denunciation of the final version of *Dig!* ▼

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Swift seductions

'The Opposite of Sex' made into a musical at the Magic

by Richard Dodds

If your business is making musicals, it's your job to be looking for ideas that might work as a musical. But just because something can be turned into a musical doesn't necessarily mean it should.

That's the case with *The Opposite of Sex*, the world-premiere

musical at the Magic Theatre that is poised for a leap to Broadway. Based on the 1998 movie of the same name, it's a generally entertaining enterprise that finds most of its strength in Don Roos' original screenplay. But when it decides to sing, rather than elaborating on the emotions of the characters, it tends to dumb them down.

William Finn's *Falsettos* is often invoked by the musical's creators as a stylistic inspiration, and, indeed, the new musical often resembles the earlier work in its intimate scale, sung dialogue, a meandering pastiche of a score, and a generous embrace of unorthodox families. But while Finn created the entire universe of his musical, the makers of *The Opposite of Sex* are reworking someone else's vision.

But at least it is an original vision, and the adapters shouldn't be charged with the mercenary motivations of those who made musicals from *Saturday Night Fever*, *Footloose*, and *Urban Cowboy*. Of the eight main characters, three are gay, but the story is entirely queer in a humanistic message disguised with in-your-face cynicism.

The libretto by director Robert Jess Roth and composer Douglas J. Cohen closely follows the film's story of the upheaval — and ultimately, insight — a runaway teen from Louisiana brings to a small collection of characters living complacently in a suburban Indiana town.

Dede Truitt, just 16 but wise beyond her years, seeks out her gay half-brother Bill for refuge, even though in her narration she displays an openly caustic view of "the gays." She promptly seduces Bill's pretty-but-dense boyfriend Matt, gets pregnant, and steals Matt away, prompting a cross-country chase that includes not only Bill but Lucia (the repressed sister of Bill's late lover, who secretly loves Bill) and Carl (a cloddish sheriff who loves Lucia).

Roth and Cohen have fun with theatrical conventions in their



Dede Truitt (Kerry Butler) romps with boytoy Matt (David Burtka).

adaptation of the screenplay. After Bill sings of his anguish at losing Matt, Dede says to the audience, "Hey, just because his music is turbulent doesn't make him better than me." And when a mini-production number starts up when the characters reach Los Angeles, Dede commands the performers to stop. "I hate that cheesy shit."

Using a minimum of props and furniture pieces moved about by the cast, the production travels quickly through its multiple locations. But too often, the songs (which are seldom songs in the beginning, middle, and big-finish style) bog down the proceedings. Sentiments that the movie presented effectively in a few choice words are now elongated in Roth and Cohen's shallower lyrics and Cohen's mostly unmemorable music.

The cast has a strong Broadway pedigree, and it shows. Kerry Butler, fresh from the revival of *Little Shop of Horrors*, recalls Christina Ricci's magnetic screen performance as Dede without being an imitation. As Lucia, Tony-winner Karen Ziemba creates a strong and believable character that is distinct from Lisa Kudrow's delightful work in the movie.

Kevin McCarthy, the original Officer Lockstock in *Urinetown*, offers a drolly underplayed performance as the sheriff that Lyle Lovett first played. As Bill, Dede's academic brother, John Bolton is a bit colorless in the least eccentric role. But David Burtka has the right stuff as his boy-toy lover. Locally cast performers Ian Scott McGregor as Dede's back-home boyfriend and Joe Mandragona as Bill's blackmailing student hold their own with their out-of-town counterparts.

The Opposite of Sex may have the greatest appeal for those who never saw the movie, or at least haven't seen it since its initial release. The story is quirky and intriguing, and the added music may seem less an encumbrance. But if you're going to add songs to an existing property, they need to tell the story not only as well as the original, but actually add something. In this regard, *The Opposite of Sex* seldom succeeds. ▼

The Opposite of Sex will run at the Magic Theatre through Oct. 24. Tickets are \$25-\$50. Call 441-8822 or go to magictheatre.org.

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Bernstein on the air

11-part radio documentary debuts

by Jason Victor Serinus

Leonard Bernstein was the first major American conductor to grow up listening to pop tunes and jazz. With Gilbert & Sullivan, Jerome Kern, and black music among his early loves, his genius lay in an ability to assimilate pop, classical, and uniquely American forms of music into genre-busting compositions endowed with an immediately identifiable personal voice.

Bernstein's reputation as the most influential American composer/conductor of the last century has continued to grow, 14 years after his death. To honor his life and work, Chicago's WFMT radio network and Steve Rowland have created *Leonard Bernstein: An American Life*, an 11-part radio documentary airing weekly in SF this month on KALW-FM 91.7, and KCSM-FM



'Intense joy at being alive.'

91.1. Actress Susan Sarandon narrates the series, and actors Alec Baldwin, Maria Tucci, Bernstein's daughter Jamie, and record producer Schuyler Chapin read the correspondence and comments.

Born in Lawrence, MA, in 1918, Bernstein the man and musician constantly communicated what gay composer John Corigliano terms an "intense joy in being alive." In 1937, while still a student at Harvard, Bernstein met Aaron Copland at a concert. Surprised by Copland's warmth and accessibility, he immediately struck up a friendship. A year later, Copland invited him to visit. Promising to teach his future protégé everything he knew, Copland welcomed him into a musical circle that included Marc Blitzstein, William Schumann, Roy Harris, and Paul Bowles. To this mix was soon added Adolph Green, Bernstein's first roommate after Harvard; and Serge Koussevitsky, his musical godfather of sorts. That some of these men were either Jewish, homosexual or both certainly contributed to camaraderie.

To accompany the radio series

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FILM

Mill Valley out of Mill Valley

Seven selections from the quality film festival in Marin

by David Lambie

The 27th Mill Valley Film Festival contains the usual high-powered mix of American independent films, Oscar-quality Hollywood fare and a provocative sample of world cinema. The biggest change this year is the last-minute switch in venues. The fabled Sequoia Cinemas were hit by the collapse of the ceiling in one of the twin theatres. As a result, all programs previously slated for the Sequoia will now be screened at The Regency Theatre complex in San Rafael. The nearby Rafael Film Center will host most of the remaining programs.

Tarnation The life you save may be your own. Jonathan Caouette seems to have taken this advice to heart from the age of 11, when he first pointed a home-movie camera at the vortex of chaos and confusion that enveloped his Houston family from the time his mother was subjected to electric-shock therapy. Jonathan seems to have had no more profound purpose behind his eclectic collage of home movies, recorded on a half-dozen formats and spiced up with snippets of pop culture and home answering-machine tapes, than making himself real to himself. Suffering from an odd malady called depersonalization, a sense of standing outside your body and feeling detached from your emotions, Jonathan found that self-documentation grounded him and, as a bonus, allowed him to explore a unique aesthetic, such as direct-address monologues to the camera in which he seems to channel his troubled mother's persona in a thoroughly original way, as if a young Tennessee Williams had been caught doing Blanche at age 12.

While a dire commentary on the antediluvian state of '50s mental-health care, *Tarnation* is more profoundly a surreal visual poem about a boy's love for his mother, the power of art to heal, and a beautiful young man's instinct to leave Texas while the getting was still good. The debut of an awesome original talent. Filmmaker Caouette will attend. (Regency, 10/10; Rafael, 10/12)

Imaginary Heroes Timmy Travis (Emile Hirsch) harbors a guilty secret about the death of his fair-haired brother Matt (Kip Pardue) that threatens to destroy his once-prosperous suburban family. Father Ben (Jeff Daniels) sets a place at the dinner table for the dead boy while largely ignoring his surviving son. Mother Sandy (Sigourney Weaver) alternates a bitter rage against the world (particularly her next-door neighbor) with the ingestion of stupendous amounts of marijuana.

The script for *Imaginary Heroes* was writer/director Dan Harris' Hollywood calling card. After reading it, Brian Singer commissioned Harris to write the live-action comic-book movie *X2*.

Harris provides a black sheep's viewpoint of life inside a deeply troubled family. As in Ang Lee's *Ice Storm*, your fear for the fate of these characters is tempered by some darkly funny views of American life. Hirsch (*The Mudge Boy*) demonstrates anew his claim to be the best young American actor under 21, and Weaver just rules. Includes a delightful cameo by Bay Area divas Kiki and Herb, and one passionate boy-on-boy kiss. (Regency, closing night, 10/17)

Finding Neverland "Nothing that happens after we are 12 matters very much." The spirit of the man who wrote those words, British playwright James M. Barrie, is honored by another of Johnny Depp's brilliant conjurings of his own inner child. Instead of attempting a faithful account of Barrie's life (he was part of an incomparable generation of playwrights that included Wilde and Shaw), director Marc Foster (*Monster's Ball*) and screenwriter David Magee have concocted a playful, at times extremely moving tribute to the subject of Allan Knee's play, *The Man Who Was Peter Pan*.

In today's tabloid universe, where the idea of "Neverland" has taken on very different connotations, it's a joy to be transported back to a time (London, 1904) where the pleasures of childhood were taken seriously, by a man who was traumatized as a child by the death of a beloved older brother. Warning: If you have father issues, this film will get to you. Supporting cast includes Dustin Hoff-

man's witty faux grumpy turn as Barrie's own fairy godfather, producer Charles Frohman, "the Napoleon of drama." (Regency, opening night, 10/7)

Kinsey If there were any justice, there would be a statue of Alfred Kinsey in the Castro, or for that matter, in the banally reconfigured Union Square. As much as Gertrude Stein, Harry Hay or Harvey Milk, Kinsey provided a beacon for our people, proving that sexual activity of all kinds (including our kind) was much more prevalent than previously imagined. Among the delightful conclusions buried in the 800 pages of Kinsey's *Sexual Behavior in the American Male* (as revolutionary in the year of its publication, 1948, as the *Communist Manifesto* a century earlier) was evidence that the sooner a young male passed through puberty, and the higher his IQ, the more sexually active in all ways he would be for the remainder of his life,



Johnny Depp conjures up his inner child and plays British playwright James M. Barrie, author of *Peter Pan*, in *Finding Neverland*.

whether married or unmarried.

Writer/director Bill Condon (*Gods and Monsters*) gives us a witty, bold view of the life of a seemingly stodgy Indiana Univer-

sity scientist whose awesome curiosity suddenly switched from wasps to horny humans. Kinsey is incisively rendered by Liam Ne-

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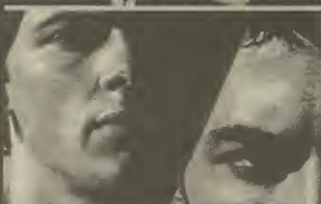
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Tongues explored

Songs drenched in Weltschmerz

by Tim Pfaff

For every complete opera recording the financially-strapped music industry is not making, it seems to be issuing a half-dozen single-singer recital discs. It's usually a poor trade-off. Few singers can hold listeners' in-

terest over an entire CD, except when they are performing CD-length works or song cycles. Intending no insult to a singer as important as Anna Netrebko, it took me three spins to get through her new *Sempre Libera* CD. Every 20 minutes or so, I'd had enough of the voice.

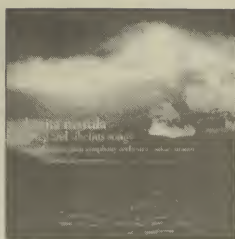
Two of the year's greatest CDs

come from Karita Mattila, in *Grieg and Sibelius Songs* (Warner Classics) and Bernarda Fink, in *Dvorak Songs* (Harmonia Mundi). I've listened to both multiple times, beginning to end, paying full attention, and they're nowhere near ready to go on the shelf.

Consistently doing some of the most accomplished, emotionally invested singing on today's opera stages has limited the amount of attention Mattila can give the song literature. The Sibelius songs on her new CD, expertly partnered by her fellow Finn Sakari Oramo and the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, give this invaluable artist the chance to sing in her own language (and, in the Grieg songs, in Norwegian), the rewards of which are deep.

The big Sibelius songs such as 'Höstkvall' ("Fall Evening"), which begins the program, register more as "deeds" than performances. Unfurling on an open note big as a Brünnhilde cry (and perfectly controlled), 'Höstkvall' goes on to paint a frequently stark picture of a "wanderer" observing what is obviously no ordinary Nordic sunset. Like all the Sibelius songs, it's dauntingly long-lined, and you listen in wonder as Mattila winds her lustrous instrument around a stretch of melody that goes from battle cry/cris de coeur to hushed, supple phrases suffused with the pathos of lost Mélisande.

The texts are drenched in that signature Northern European Weltschmerz—"Beauty is passing, and happiness does not last"—that Elisabeth Söderström once joked about: "We Scandinavians think the first day of spring is the saddest day of the year, since winter will come so soon." Mattila conveys their muted sadness from deep inside while digging in even deeper to launch a vaulting phrase at thrilling full voice to hint at



transcendence. Then, in 'Vären flyktar hastigt' ("Spring rushes by"), she's playful.

The big piece here is 'Luonnotar,' Sibelius' vocal tone poem that is widely considered one of his best compositions. Mattila never loses the essential narrative thread of the tale of the creation of the heavens by the sky maiden Luonnotar, while pouring out some of the most resplendent sounds to have crossed a microphone this century.

The Grieg songs are rendered with comparable subtlety yet voluptuousness of sound. Of all the accounts of the *Solveig* songs I know, Mattila's have most denied themselves the excesses of sentimentality other singers have exploited. Being touched to the core without feeling manipulated is a refreshing, cleansing experience.

Czech point

Besides being up for virtually every award the record industry gives, Fink's *Dvorak Songs* CD marks a turning point in Czech music's staking its claim on the central repertoire. Janacek has enjoyed repertoire status for a cou-



ple of decades now, but his colleagues' work (even Dvorak's) is known only in nuggets, usually performed by Czechs.

The Argentine-born Fink, who has established a career largely on early-music opera in Italian, sings this sage selection of songs as if they were, in the words of the English title of the most famous of them, "Songs My Mother Taught Me." It's hard to imagine a more sympathetic pianist than Roger Vignoles, who cut his teeth accompanying Söderström.

Fink masterfully handles the swells in the vocal line that are as signal features of Czech songs as ornaments in Baroque singing, always to specific expressive effect. The consistent seamlessness of line is augmented by a rhythmic vitality that never shorts the keenness of characterization she brings to each of these 35 songs.

Her rich, amber mezzo ideally conveys the songs' highly individualized emotions. The love songs that make up most of the fare seem to cover the whole range of emotions associated with music's favorite subject. This is music-making at its most beguiling. ▼

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Classical Elvis

'Il Sogno' with MTT

by Philip Campbell

Elvis Costello: *Il Sogno*, London Symphony Orchestra, Michael Tilson Thomas (Deutsche Grammophon)

Rocker Elvis Costello has gone legit, but it won't come as a surprise to the many fans who have followed his amazing 27-year career. Ever since *The Juliet Letters* with the Brodsky Quartet and a song cycle for mezzo-soprano Anne Sofie von Otter, Costello has been honing his skills as a composer and arranger.

The recent release of *Il Sogno* on the prestigious Deutsche Grammophon label conclusively recognizes his status as a "serious" musician, and the inclusion of his birthdate on the booklet cover only confirms his membership in the classical Who's Who.

Conceived as an evening-length ballet based on Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Il Sogno* was written over a 10-week span and orchestrated without the help of computer software or collaborators. The concert suite, distilled for the new disc, surely benefited from the advice of conductor Michael Tilson Thomas, but there is no doubting the work is pure Costello.

Stylistically, *Il Sogno* is all over the map, and trying to track the influences is a large part of the fun. There is formal music for the court, folk music and marches for the rustics, and a sort of dreamy, jazz-flavored atmosphere for the "swinging fairies."

What holds the episodic piece together is a sort of overarching impressionism vaguely reminiscent



of film composer Angelo Badalamenti (*Twin Peaks*). At MTT's urging, Costello has made a sincere attempt at writing pure music that could survive without visual help.

The results are mostly successful, and, at just over an hour, *Il Sogno* fairly flies by in a flurry of catchy and evocative numbers. Of course, it helps to know the story, and I would like to see the whole ballet. The Italian troupe that approached Costello in the first place had the right idea. The music is ripe for dancing.

Soloists Peter Erskine, percussion; John Harle, saxophone; and Chris Laurence, double bass, groove in the overtly jazzy passages, and the piquant sound of the cimbalom (hammer dulcimer) adds delectable character throughout.

MTT and his old colleagues the London Symphony Orchestra give a lush, romantic feel to the big melodies, moving things along with a sure pace.

Costello only wants to write understandable music that illuminates the human condition. This example of his evolving talent is moving in the right direction.

With a new marriage and song collaborations with singer Diana Krall, not to mention another new release with his old band The Imposters, Elvis Costello is on a roll. ▼

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Fascinating rhythms

How David O. Russell hears 'I ♥ Huckabees'

by David Lamble

Once a director, always a director. David O. Russell has a sharp sense of humor (he wrote *Spanking the Monkey*, his mother/son incest story, as a very dark comedy); his way of dressing — suit, no tie and sneakers — is seemingly casual but really aimed at an effect as specific as any single moment in his four films; his light-brown hair is worn shoulder-length and without a hint of styling; like Johnny Depp, he is the eternal boy, yet very much the grownup. He appears easily a decade younger than his 46 years. Seeing that I wanted to videotape our mid-morning chat (for which he was fashionably late), Russell set about adjusting the light, turning off all the lamps in the small hotel room, and sitting himself down in front of my camera so that his face was precisely divided into light and dark spheres, an ideal public face for a director whose comedies address real-life problems for which he has passionate feelings: as one critic put it, "the jail of family and the misbehavior of the inmates" (*Spanking the Monkey*, *Flirting with Disaster*), the horrors of war on non-combatants (*Three Kings*), and now, a Zen-like dissection of the soul of a young man who hires psychic detectives to help deal with a nasty workplace rivalry (*I [Heart] Huckabees*).

Russell has a reputation for being tough with his actors: he pushed Jeremy Davies very hard in the extremely uncomfortable sex scenes with Alberta Watson playing his mother in *Monkey*, and Davies, to his credit, pushed back. Russell told Graham Fuller in an interview, "The scene in which Ray throws his mother down on the bed and fondles her breasts, well there were versions of that where he actually rapes her, and Jeremy didn't want to do that."

His inspiration for *Monkey* came from Gus Van Sant's bold *Mala Noche*. "What a ballsy thing: to make a film about a guy's lust for this kid."

On location for *Three Kings*, Russell had a well-publicized blowup with his lead, George Clooney, which the tabloids called a fistfight. Russell wonders why Clooney got so much attention. "Because he was loud?"

In *I [Heart] Huckabees*, the close work with his all-star cast was a bit more congenial. Russell dismisses a recent *New York Times* Magazine piece alleging fireworks on the set between himself and Lily Tomlin, calling it a very inaccurate account of the location shoot by a reporter he considered a friend.

He says among the most treasured memories of his experience

making *Huckabees* are the two days he spent reading the script to Dustin Hoffman at the actor's LA home. Russell calls *The Graduate* the most influential movie of his childhood, explaining that he's trying to replicate the great edgy American films of the late '60s and early '70s. So imagine his astonishment when Hoffman informed him that *The Graduate* took a hundred days to shoot. "That's a long time for a movie that's essentially about two people in a room."

Russell notes that Hoffman is a great collaborator without letting ego intrude, "and if your context is artful and sincere, he really responds to that." Hoffman surprised him during rehearsals. "I would be talking, and he wasn't looking at me, and I said, 'Are you listening to me?' He said, 'Yeah, I'm listening to your rhythms. You have three rhythms when you speak: you speak very fast and very intensely, then very deliberately and slowly when you're describing something, and finally, you listen quietly and intensely.'"

Script music

Russell says that Hoffman really got the rhythm of the *Huckabees* script, "the comedy, the dialogue, and the ensemble between him, Lily and Jude Law. That was important because before, when I paid so much attention to the way I heard a scene, I thought I was constricting the actors, and he told me that's 'the music of the script, that's what's in your head.' When Dustin says that, everyone looks and nods."

As a thank-you gift, Russell gave Hoffman a wooden grillwork from LA's soon-to-be demolished Ambassador Hotel. It appears in *The Graduate* in a scene between Hoffman and Buck Henry. Henry's front-desk clerk asks Hoffman's Benjamin Braddock, "Are you here for an affair, sir?"

Russell, much in the vein of the great Preston Sturges, is known for his creative mix of verbal and physical humor. In *Flirting with Disaster*, a gay government agent (*Six Feet Under*'s Richard Jenkins) tries to arrest Ben Stiller's birthparents (Alan Alda, Lily Tomlin) for giving LSD to their guests, while he himself is wiggling out on an acid high. In *Huckabees*, the hero (Jason Schwartzman) winds up having an oddly erotic mudfight with the legendary French actress Isabelle Huppert.

"Jason's character loves nature and the open spaces, so you have this marsh he's trying to save. Isabelle's character refutes the psychic detectives, saying, 'Life is disappointing, it is what it is.' There's a bluntness as well as a sexuality to that. It just cracked me up that two people would have a love scene by

smashing each other's faces in the mud, especially a beautiful French icon like Isabelle. To see two people make out covered in that mud, it's both funny and erotic to me in some weird way."

Karma call

Russell says he always had Schwartzman in mind to play the beleaguered environmental activist who has his karma adjusted by Hoffman and Tomlin's psychic detectives. "I intuited that he was like a brother to me from watching *Rushmore* [Schwartzman's breakthrough debut for Wes Anderson], but you don't know if a hunch is going to be right."

"Some people said to Jason, 'My god, your character's such a mess in this movie.' I don't think so. I think the people who dare to go beyond the lockdown, stable role of their lives are my heroes." Russell, whose film debut was delayed by years spent with clipboards in the trenches of progressive causes, impishly adds, "Once again, we're brought to the subject of Democrats and Republicans."

Watching *Huckabees*, I kept flashing on all the '60s movies it brought to mind, films about lovesick nerds like the boyishly delectable Michael Crawford in Richard Lester's *The Knack and How to Get It* and Francis Coppola's *You're a Big Boy Now*. Russell slyly admits, "I did see Coppola's film, Jason's uncle, and it shocked me at how uncharacteristic it felt for



The comic nature of *Huckabees* recalls '60s films about lovesick nerds.

Coppola. It was almost like a Spike Jonze movie, I mean the character has that innocence and sweetness."

As you might expect from a guy who wears sneakers and a suit, Russell is a tad eccentric about his personal transportation. He explained the dual rationale behind the scenes in *Huckabees* where Schwartzman's character rides a bike with the character played by Mark Wahlberg. "I lived in New York for 13 years, and I rode my

bike everywhere. It's like riding a horse around the city. It's lyrical when Jason and Mark ride their bikes together in *Huckabees*. And that friendship is my friendship with Mark. I'm the middle-class guy who went to college, and he's the guy from Dorchester who went to prison like half of his nine brothers and sisters did. I think you feel the essence of the friendship when they take off on their bikes together." *Opens Friday.* ▼

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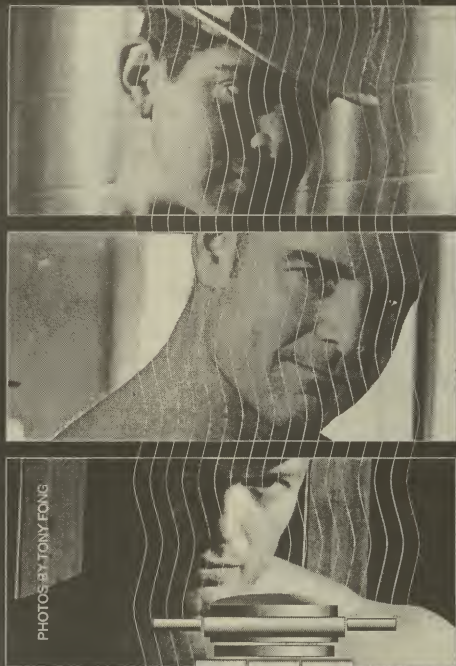
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Ground war on the lavender tube

by Victoria A. Brownworth

Who could have guessed that the most exciting new show of the fall season would be the Presidential campaign?

We are going to press just as Pretty Boy Edwards squares up against Dick Cheney, so we can't guess how that will go, but we presume the kid who won millions against big bad corporations as a trial lawyer will simply view Che-

ney as another conglomerate to be brought down — say, Halliburton. We know going in Cheney wins on *gravitas* (after all, he is Satan), but we also know Edwards wins on likability and hair. And as we learned in the first debate, might doesn't necessarily mean right.

Then, Friday, Oct. 8, Bush and Kerry duke it out again. The day after the Sept. 30 debate, a *Boston Globe* editorial was succinct: "Ladies and gentlemen, you wake today to a whole new Presidential race. Last night, John Kerry won as clear a debate victory as we've seen since Ronald Reagan outdueling Jimmy Carter in 1980. The Democratic challenger seemed more serious and substantive, more knowledgeable and confident, than the man who holds the job."

Last weekend, we were

watching Jack Hanna's *Animal Kingdom* on ABC, about Sweetwater, the chimpanzee refuge established in Kenya by Jane Goodall. We love Hanna and the work he does with conservation and animal preservation. We've been watching his reports from the animal kingdom for



Lavender Tube

ages — when he was Director of the Columbus Zoo and brought animals on Johnny Carson, now as Director of the wildlife preserve at Busch Gardens, bringing animals on Jay Leno. His report on the chimpanzees was remarkable. Most people do not know they're endangered. We're killing off their habitat, and in their native countries, they're eaten as a delicacy. Most people also don't know that they're the closest relative to humans: we share 99% of their DNA. They are more closely related to us than they are to other apes.

Which certainly explained a lot in the debate. When we watched the chimps gamboling at Sweetwater, we were struck by how remarkably human they were: sitting around chatting, walking upright. When we watched the first debate, we were struck by how remarkably chimplike Bush was: hunched over his podium, scratching his head, making those strange faces, looking quizzically at the camera as if the answers to Jim Lehrer's questions might magically appear there — or at least there would be a banana. On November 3, we know there's a good place Jack Hanna can take him.

We are too young to have seen the Kennedy-Nixon debate, but through the wonders of videotape, we have viewed it. Not since then has a candidate looked as bad in relation to his competitor as Bush did facing off against Kerry. The aw-shucks approach that works so well for Bush in choreographed campaign stops came off as simply stupid.

Ad fib

Bush at the debate — bumbling, fumbling, inarticulate, angry — presents stark counterpoint to his new TV ad campaign, which is forceful and frightening. Scenes of white suburban Americans going about their daily tasks, getting the kids off for school, provides the backdrop for a startling message: Kerry and "liberals in Congress" have already made America less safe. If elected, the viewer is left to imagine the dire consequences: terror will strike us.

The ads shock not so much for

their terrifying message as for their unmitigated lies. Kerry is a Senator, not President yet, and there's a Republican majority in both houses of Congress. Doesn't that mean if the Congressional votes in question have gone a particular way, it's because Republicans and the President wanted them to? Thus, if we are at risk, it is from Bush & Co. Just a little reality check.

Prior to the debate, former Texas Gov. Ann Richards was interviewed on news programs about Bush campaign tactics. She said during her race with Bush, his team first began noting that many of the people that worked for her weren't married. Then that she wasn't married. Then that they all might be gay, anathema in a right-wing Christian state. Nice.

Fox News chief political correspondent Carl Cameron posted a series of fake quotes on the Fox News website allegedly said by Kerry after the debate. The quotes were not taken down until protests ensued on October 1. Every alleged quote was questioned; Kerry allegedly referred to himself as a "metrosexual" with great "nails and cuticles," and allegedly said women would vote for him because he did manicures. Swish, swish, swish. Fox is low, but CBS is still feeling the heat for alleged fake documents. How are fake quotes different? Just ask Ann Richards: queer-baiting is a favored tool of the Bush set.

When Kerry first chose Edwards as his running mate, there was some gay-baiting that went on as well, winking and nodding over their physical closeness, over the fact that both had wives who were older than they. That approach was set aside in favor of slurring Kerry's war record, but the damage seemed to have been done. Edwards has been far afield from Kerry for months.

Kerry's new TV ads are also frightening. With their violent jumpcuts from the war in Iraq, they remind viewers that the war isn't over, it's bloodier than ever. Each evening newscast supports the scenes from the Kerry ads: Iraq is definitely getting more violent. With few exceptions (notably hurricanes), Iraq leads the news most nights. Last week, a score of Americans and more than 100 Iraqi police and civilians were killed in attacks. In September, over 1,000 Americans were wounded. As ABC senior foreign affairs correspondent Martha Radditz asserted midweek, the ground war has become extreme. Daily car bombs put everyone at terrible risk. Radditz added that the President seems to have a disconnect when it comes to understanding the current extent of the carnage in Iraq.

Casualty reports

Throughout the war on Iraq, CBS has been most engaged in reporting not only the war, but the casualties. They are the only major network to have a nightly news segment, *Fallen Heroes*, that highlights the dead. Dan Rather narrates every piece, humanizing the fallen, and making vivid the cost of the war in American lives. PBS runs photos of the dead with their stats after news broadcasts, and ABC's *This Week* lists the names of American dead each week at the end of their *In Memoriam* segment. Interestingly, NBC and Fox, the most hawkish of the networks, utterly ignore the casualties.

But CBS is ditching a 60 *Minutes* report slated to run on the fake documents used to support the war on Iraq. Senior correspondent Ed Bradley has been working on the report for months. CBS, under fire for the questionable documents regarding Bush's military service, stated that it would be "unfair to the White House" to release such a report so close to the election.

Unfair to the White House? Journalism is about news, nothing else. The duty behind the First Amendment is the people's fundamental right to know. CBS' gutlessness on this issue makes a mockery of those nightly reports on *Fallen Heroes*. Those men and women are dead because of a lie. Isn't this fake documents issue vital to the voting public?

The furor over Rather seems to have diminished, except among right-wing bloggers. We believe he will not be forced to resign. We caught him on 60 *Minutes* II last week, reporting from Costa Rica. Rather, whose personal passion (beyond bringing down Bush) is trains, detailed the risks taken by would-be immigrants from Costa Rican who nightly risk their lives attempting to escape to America via train. During the segment, Rather, at 72, jumped onto a train himself. Not the sort of stuff one sees from most anchors. If CBS forces Rather to resign, they truly will lose all credibility.

Soap sop

Meanwhile, on daytime, ABC still leads in queer storylines, but we'd like to see Bianca (*All My Children*) get her baby back in our lifetime. We are already tired of Mark, the drab gay character on *One Life to Live*, and tired still of Marcie talking about her gay brother Ed, and the family conflicts over him getting married. It's very difficult to feel connected to characters who never appear on camera. Either bring Ed and fiancé James on-camera, or stop talking about them. The gay marriage debate on a soap is meaningless unless we have people to invest the argument with emotion. How long are they planning their wedding? Don't tell us they can't find queer actors for a New York soap!

Finally, Terri Hatcher, star of the campy new ABC drama *Desperate Housewives*, told Conan O'Brien her six-year-old watched the debate, and told her what he thought of both candidates. Of Kerry, the child noted he thought he could do a better job, make better rules, and win. Of Bush, the child noted, "He said uh and um a lot."

Out of the mouths of babes. Stay tuned, particularly Friday night. ▼

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Travolta & Phoenix talk up 'Ladder 49'

by Tim Nasson

Seventies heartthrob John Travolta has come a long way since his first film, nearly 30 years ago. From dancer (*Saturday Night Fever*, *Grease*, *Staying Alive*) to comedian (*Look Who's Talking*) to Academy Award nominee (*Pulp Fiction*) to Scientist to box-office gold (*Michael, Phenomenon*, *Get Shorty*, *Face/Off*, *A Civil Action*) to laughingstock (*Battlefield Earth*, *Lucky Numbers*, *Basic*, *The Punisher*), Travolta is now poised to take his fans by firestorm in the new Disney film *Ladder 49*. He plays Baltimore City Fire Chief Mike Kennedy, responsible for the lives of his entire squad, rookie and veteran alike.

Joaquin Phoenix has also come a long way. He was raised a vegan, and traveled to such exotic places as the Amazon jungle and mountains of South America before the age of six. His family finally settled in Los Angeles. As Joaquin began first grade, his parents secured an agent for the entire clan. Brother River would be the superstar, until his untimely death from a drug overdose in '93. River's death gave Joaquin more of an impetus to succeed. Gay director Gus Van Sant, who directed River in *My Own Private Idaho*, took a chance on 19-year-old Joaquin in '94, casting him as Nicole Kidman's obsessive devotee in *To Die For*.

It's been uphill ever since for 30-year-old Joaquin: an Academy Award nomination for *Gladiator*, and now, as fireman Jack Morrison in *Ladder 49*, top billing.

The cast of *Ladder 49* and its director, Jay Russell, boarded pilot John Travolta's 707 luxury jetliner and toured the country, making their final stop in Boston three days before the film's release. I spent the rainy afternoon with them at The Four Seasons hotel. The two standouts, of course, were Travolta and Phoenix, the stars.

Travolta said about his part, "I have had so many bad guy roles lately that it was refreshing to be able to play someone with a soul."

"I always prepare for my roles, but I can't remember a time I have worked so hard or cared so much about a role. The entire cast spent six weeks in Baltimore before shooting began, training with the city's firefighters. They were sticklers for detail. They were even on the set once filming commenced, and wouldn't let us get away with anything, be it verbiage or technicality."

Travolta, 50, may well get his third Academy Award nomination, not for *Ladder 49*, but for his starring role in *A Love Song for Bobby Long*. He could barely contain himself when talking about that film. "It's one of those small films that need to be nurtured and promoted well by its publicists, covered properly in the media. I play someone slightly older than myself, and it is just such a great movie." Is his performance Oscar-worthy? "Actually, yes. It would be so great if I were to be honored with even a nomination, not because I want an award but because I think it would help that film earn the recognition it deserves." Travolta will also reprise his role as Chili Palmer in *Be Cool*, the sequel to *Get Shorty*.

Poster boy

Walking into the hotel suite, the self-assured sex symbol Phoenix picked up a poster of *Ladder 49* on a chair, turned it

over to the blank side, rested it against a wall, shook my hand and sat next to me. He was clearly not in the mood to be stared back at by himself. "I never cared about billing. Five years after a Newman/Redford movie, who would know who had top billing? I wouldn't have done the movie if validation was what I needed."

"I think most kids aspire to become what their older brothers or sisters are. I just happened to have an older brother who was a successful actor, and I wanted to be like him."

"Since, as kids, we grew up without a TV, we were challenged to use our imaginations, and we spent a lot of time dressing up, doing plays and singing songs. We were in more of a position to experiment, and not care about rejection if we were

turned down for a role.

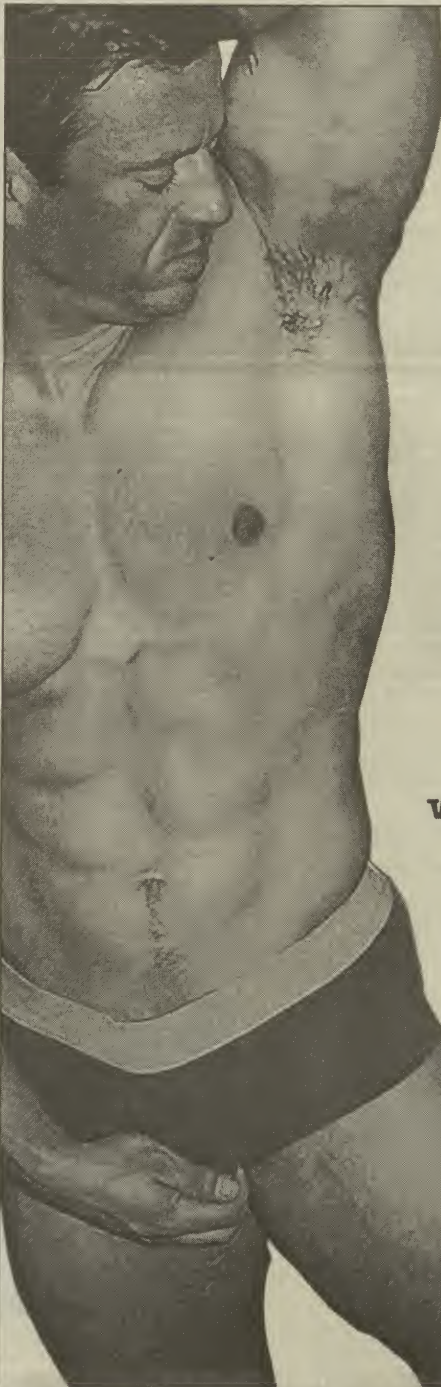
"There was a time in my acting career, before my brother died, that I wanted out of the business. I had made *Space Camp*, *Russkies* and *Parenthood*, and just had it. I wanted to be out of the spotlight. To have my own life. But after a few years of not working in the movie business, I realized that something was missing, and decided to give it another chance. It just happened to be after my brother died. But I did feel like there was fulfillment when I went back to acting. And now I could never think of not acting again."

Phoenix is also proud to be part of the Best Film at this year's Toronto Film Festival, *Hotel Rwanda*.

It's clear that Phoenix and Travolta are still climbing the ladder to success. ▼



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OUT & ABOUT



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Calendare by Mark Mardon

So many artists . . .

You'd think Kerry/Edwards already had the prize wrapped up the way San Franciscans partied and celebrated last week, most notably at Saturday's hugely successful Love Parade, and then at Sunday's packed Castro Street Fair, which came off superbly despite an overcast chill. On the Main Stage, The Tubes totally rocked the queer crowd. This '70s band is enjoying a come-back world tour, and damned if they didn't wholeheartedly put out for the troops! Lead vocalist Fee Waybill grabbed lots of much-deserved attention through his impassioned vocals, frenetic body movements, expressive, gravelly face, and wild-as-fuck couture (slick '50s greaser; masked, bare-chested leather daddy; towering disco diva; etc.). He and bandmates were wildly entertaining in an unusually long set that showed off ample diversity while maintaining a booty-shaking energy. At times Waybill cooed up with and/or bounced off of those gyrating hussies the Von Blondenberg Sisters.

Stepping out of their go-go roles and into their band Pepper-spray, the sisters' alter egos, Princess Kennedy and Jordan L'Moore, joined bandmates Tinkle, Peggy L'EGgs, Jennifer Hope and Dr. Ice for a rousing drag-rock spectacle replete with sexy "Pepperettes" on the sidelines, swishing hips and showing off bulges and tattooed skin despite a foggy breeze that turned their boners limp. Fortunately the band members were hot, including Precious Moments (Michael Soldier), shockingly out of drag because he had expected to be doing a porn shoot instead of performing for us. The crowd was in great spirits and adored every moment of the set.

Now, I know not everyone is a huge Garrin Benfield fan the way I am — but you would be if you'd heard him live last Thursday at The Independent (site of "The Box" of yore) where fans witnessed a breathtaking display of guitarman'ship, far beyond anything I'd seen him do before. He was playing songs off his new album, *Where Joy Kills Sorrow*, but his live set was far more free-wheeling and exciting than his tightly controlled CD. The live show reached stratospherically, taking him into a whole new musical realm and proving his star power. Benfield's greatest strength is his ability to jam on his own compositions, playing the rock god with his guitar, and in that he was sensational.

A day or two earlier at *Viva Variety 43*, an appreciative crowd applauded several acts pulled out of the hat by showman Steve Murray. Funnymen P.A. Cooley and Drew Todd did a scene from *Quite Contrary*, in which two queens meet in the Castro and engage in snappy gay-cliché repartee, employing such words as "brob-dignagian." Fresh Meat Productions dancers Sean Dorsey and Mair Colbreath turned in a beautiful piece, with voice-over narrating the experience of a new girl in 4th grade class, bossy and magnetic, who mistakes Sean for a boy and asks for a kiss, prompting Dorsey (who is super boy-cute) to dance with Colbreath (playing the new girl) while musing on whether it's right to fool mother nature. Vocalist Benn Bacot displayed his deep, rich seductive baritone. Tall, dignified, black, wearing hat and glasses, dapper in dark slacks and jacket over b/w-striped shirt, with white shoes, Bacot showed how smooth jazz can get. "You Don't Know What Love Is," he sang, and I believed him. Closing the show were vocalist/songwriter/pianist Spencer Day and cellist/jazz guitarist Yair Evnine, who rendered a couple of Day's songs and an outstanding cover of Leonard Cohen's "Hallelujah," as smooth as k.d. lang's version. ▼

Fri 8

National Coming Out Day @ City College of SF

The Queer Alliance at City College of San Francisco is celebrating National Coming Out Day at Ram Plaza, on Ocean Campus, from 11am-2pm. They invite people to come support City College LGBT students and faculty, who do not have visible representation at the school. Free music, info, & condoms! Info: www.ccsf.cc.ca.us/Organizations/Queer_Alliance

Coming UP, Coming OUT!

@ Jon Sims Center

liquidFIRE Productions presents the debut of Coming UP, Coming OUT! Is a multidisciplinary performance festival that showcases the Bay Area's hottest emerging-to-professional lesbian and queer women of color artists — singers, musicians, dancers, spoken word artists, performance artists, comedienne, bands and more! Be prepared to be entertained, enthralled and empowered by these dynamic and talented women as they bring you the very best of their repertoires in two outstanding programs. Program 1 (Friday, October 8 and Saturday, October 16): Kaylah Marin (singer/songwriter), Chavé Alexander (singer/dancer), Ashley Brockington (performance artist extraordinaire) and Sistas In The Pit (3-piece rock band). Program 2 (Saturday, October 9 and Friday, October 15): Kreative (Pin@ artist collective), Frances Sedayao (dancer), Anissa Primus Alston (singer/actress), Carolyn King (comedienne). \$10-\$15 sliding. 8pm. Jon Sims Center for the Arts, 1519 Mission St. Info: 415-554-0402

Belcher Artists Open Studios

Reception: The artists of Belcher Studios in lovely Duboce Triangle open their doors for Open Studios weekend, starting tonight with a reception from 6-9pm, and open 11am-6pm Sat. & Sun., Oct. 9 & 10. 69 Belcher St. (near intersection of Church, Market, & 14th sts). Info: 415-626-8349; www.BelcherArtists.com

Daniel Barrow & Adam Ansell @ New Langton Arts

New Langton Arts presents live performances that take on hot couture and Vegas queens! Featuring Daniel Barrow's The Face of Everything and Adam Ansell's Hypermodern Dress-Up. Barrow's "graphic performance" piece uses on-the-spot animation to tell the tragic story of Liberace's notorious hilariously lover Scott Thorson. Ansell's piece recruits collaborators from Electra Theater Company to serve as fashion models and runway paparazzi, highlighting Ansell's imaginative paper creations and melodramatic makeup. \$10-\$15 sliding; \$5 members, students, seniors. 8pm. 1246 Folson St. (btwn 8th & 9th). Tix/info: 415-626-5416; www.newlangtonarts.org

Pamela Means

@ Dolores Park Cafe

Boston-based Out (spoken), bilingual, internationally touring, independent artists Pamela Means displays her kamikaze guitar style and punchy provocative songs. 7:30pm. 501 Dolores St. (at 18th). Info: 415-621-2936; doloresparkcafe.com; pamelameans.com

Model/Mannequin

— Victor Arimondi

@ Geras-Tousignant Gallery

Join in an evening of art, fashion, champagne and chocolate as the Geras-Tousignant Gallery unveils the fabulous photography of Victor Arimondi, whose elegant aesthetic vision permeates his studies of fashion and still life. Using models and mannequins as his subjects, Arimondi's art is a manifestation of glamour and beauty. Born in 1942, Vittorio Maria Arimondi was introduced to photography as a model in Paris, Milan, London, Germany and New York. He applied his aesthetic to his own images, which have appeared in such renowned publications as *Vogue* and *Harpers Bazaar*. He died of AIDS in 2001. Also: exclusive preview of the fall & holiday collection of Fong Chong; savor the premiere release of Rainbow Chocolates "Forever" by Chef Marc Vogel and Clarice Stromberg. RSVP necessary. 5-10pm. 437 Pacific Ave. (Jackson Square). Info/RSVP: 415-986-1647; www.gtfineart.com

Sat 9

Paradigms Lost

@ Galería de la Raza

In the era of the post 9/11 cultural wars, what have we lost, and what have you found? In *Paradigms Lost*, nearly two dozen

individual artists and groups exhibit their responses. Special tonight: "Aya De Leon is Running for President," a campaign speech remix in poetry and spoken word, with opening remarks by Chola Priest. \$7 (free for Galería members). 8pm. Exhibit open to the public Wed.-Sat., 12 noon-6pm. Galería de la Raza, 2857 24th St. Info: 415-826-8009; www.galeriadelaraza.org

SF Open Studios, Weekend 2: Castro, Duboce, Mission, Noe Valley, Glen Park, Bernal Heights, Eureka Valley, Diamond Heights, Excelsior

Visit artists' studios open from 11am-6pm, Oct. 2 & 3. Info: sfopenstudios.com

Live Art Gallery Open Studios

Live Art Gallery participates in Open Studios with a showing by Sam Russell, Tom Fowler, and René Capone. 11am-6pm both Sat. & Sun., Oct. 9 & 10. Live Art Gallery & Studios, 151 Potrero Ave. (at 15th St.). Info: renewcapone.com; tomfowlerart.com

Barry Nielsen Open Studio

Barry Nielsen of SF Gay & Lesbian Artists Alliance (GLAA) shows his "Black Light Paintings." 11am-6pm Sat. & Sun., Oct. 9 & 10. 164 Hartford St.

Gregg Cassin Open Studio

View mixed-media works by GLAA artists Gregg Cassin. Castro X-mas Tree Lot, 2299 Market St. (at Noe). Info: www.greggcassin.com

Paul Alley Open Studio

View drawings and paintings by GLAA artists Paul Alley. 112 Noe St. (at 14th St.). Info: 415-621-0282; www.sfgiaa.com

Mike Schoenig Open Studio

View paintings by GLAA artist Michael Schoenig. Workspace Limited, 2150 Folson St. (at 17th St.). Info: www.mschoenig.com

George Bush Going Away Party @ Herbst Theatre

Kung Pao Kosh Comedy Presents: The George Bush Going Away Party, An Evening Of Pre-Election Political Comedy. Come celebrate Dubya's departure, San Francisco-style, featuring a variety of political humorists who will have you rolling in the aisles and counting down the days. Featuring: Greg Proops (TV improv show, *Whose Line Is It Anyway?*); Betsy Salkind (The Tonight Show); Diane Amos (Pine Sol Lady); Bill Santiago (The Latino Laugh Festival); George W. Bush & Dick Cheney (Amos Glick & Ed Holmes of The SF Mime Troupe); The Bush Twins (Jordan L'Moore & Princess Kennedy — The Von Blondenberg Twins); Laura Bush (Arturo Galster); Barbara Bush (Anita Cocktail, aka Leanne Borghesi); and Lisa Geduldig (Your Hostess). Partial Proceeds Benefit: Central Committee for Conscientious Objectors' (CCCO) "Military Out of Our Schools Campaign," which provides activists with strategies for gaining equal access in schools to talk about military recruiting myths and alternatives to the military (www.objector.org/recruiting). \$22.50, \$25, \$27.50. 8pm. Herbst Theatre, 401 Van Ness Ave. (at McAllister). Tix: City Box Office: 415-392-4400; www.cityboxoffice.com. Info: www.koshcomedy.com

Postcards & Player Pianos

@ Alamo Square Home Tour

Seven historic residences around the Alamo Square neighborhood, including SF's oldest, will be featured at SF Museum and Historical Society's ninth annual home tour, Saturday, October 9, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. A highlight of this year's tour will be the Brune-Reutlinger House. Its owner, Richard Reutlinger, a gay man, says he was "hooked on ragtime as a child," and has been a longtime collector of nickelodeons or orchestrons, the one-man-bands of the automatic music world. They are player pianos, with other musical instruments built in. Everything plays automatically. Tickets cost \$20 for SFMHS members and \$25 for non-members. For further information and to order tickets, call 415-775-1111; www.sfmhistory.org

Sister Sindy Vine Memorial Pink Elephant Sale

@ Harvey Milk

Civil Rights Academy

The Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence host a drag-rific charity flea market just in time for Halloween. Organized in memory of Sister Sindy Vine, aka Tommy Koh., who became a "nun of the above" on August 17, 2004. Entertainment by local drag queens & comedians. Get in the shopping groove to tunes by DJ Pussypuss. \$3 admission; small & large booth spaces cost \$30 & \$50 for individuals (free to nonprofits). 10am-4pm. The Harvey Milk Civil Rights Academy, 4235 19th St. (at Collingwood). Info: the Sisters at 415-552-0220.

Nude Peace Day

@ Baker Beach

Body paint for freedom and peace. All genders/orientations welcome. Join other celebrants in the nude zone of the beach (north end closest to Golden Gate Bridge). Look for Leather Pride Flag. Around 2pm. BYO refreshments (no glass on beach). Rain cancels. Info: pages.prodigy.net/seniornude

Modesto GLBT Film Fest

Modesto Gay Lesbian International Film Festival. Two evenings (October 9-10) of the latest queer films including *Wave Babies* and *Touch of Pink*. State Theatre, Modesto, 6 pm. \$10 for one day pass, \$15 for both days. Full details at libertyactionnetwork.com.

Christopher Linnell

@ Russian River Resort

In his fourth appearance headlining "Comedy Night at the RRR" in Guerneville, Christopher Linnell celebrates his 30th anniversary in professional entertainment by headlining on comedy night. As Christopher & Co. Celebrity Impersonations he offers everyone from WC Fields and Groucho Marx to Bob Dole and Rush Limbaugh, Jesse Jackson and all three Kennedys, as well as Dame Edna, Regis Philbin, The Church Lady, Richard Simmons, and Dr. Ruth and Dr. Phil. After the show there's karaoke 'til 130am with Country Dan. \$5 cover (free if you dine). 9pm. 16390 4th St., Guerneville. Info: Toll Free (800) 4-1-RESORT; www.RussianRiverResort.com

Sun 10

Out in Oakland!

The City of Oakland presents; Out in Oakland! — A celebration of LGBT Pride on the eve of National Coming Out Day, featuring live music, dancing, LGBT info booths, food vendors, children's activities. Performers include Mark Weigle (dynamic out rocker), Linda Tillery (vocalist/percussionist), Julia Merano, Deep Dickollective (homo hop), Momma's Boyz (drag king hop), and BETTY (five-piece pop/alt-rock band from NYC fronted by three guitar-wielding females). Plus DJ Kallente, Omeyocan, Harlem Shake burlesque, Afia Walking Tree, and Spirit Drumz. Says out gay City Councilmember Danny Wan: "With the third largest gay and lesbian community in the nation, Oakland is poised to become the



"Wigs in Window, San Jose, 1988" by Victor Arimondi, part of Model/Mannequin at Geras-Tousignant Gallery. See Friday.

Billy Budd

◀ Arts cover

easy, inevitable, visceral. The struggle is always dramatic, not in execution of the music. And though he tends to overpump on opening nights, by the second performance (which I heard) he usually has the balances perfect, so that even singers with less-than-international quality voices come across.

Top Gunn

In that category, I have to assign Nathan Gunn's Billy Budd. The only time his baritone sounded unambiguously strong was when he finished the "Billy in the Darbies" aria face down on the stage, with the floor projecting his sound. This is probably preaching to a small group of listeners, as Gunn, in his early 30s, father of five, and a "thinker," is also a body-builder. His physique is splendid, and when he takes off his shirt in the sea chantey scene (which includes a brief, unconvincing drag reference), there are audible gasps all over the War Memorial. He's cute, too, but his feet-wide-apart, eager swaggering and prancing struck me as un-Billy-like. As a local actor in the audience pointed out, this angelic young man needs a still, quiet authority to provide his moral center.

On the other hand, if you fall for Gunn, you'll think I'm picking nits; and indeed I am, for he was far superior to SFO's previous Billy, Dale Deusing, just as Begley was superior to previous Veres, and Phillip Ens (Claggart) superi-



Nathan Gunn, as Billy Budd, elicited audible gasps from the audience.

or to Forbes Robinson and James Morris, to whom the idea of repressed homosexuality might be as foreign and repugnant as it would be to any number of Bush-era officials. Ens, though small, is an immensely physical actor, with a unique snarly bass that will carry him far in character parts. He, like Begley, seethed with repressed undercurrents.

Though Willy Decker's production, staged by Sabine Hartmannshenn in b&w minimalist sets by Wolfgang Gussmann, melodramatically lighted by Hans Toelstede, skipped most of this interior psychology, the gaps were filled by the chorus, the smaller

roles, the boys, even the little powder-monkeys. Particularly appealing were Harold Gray Meers' overwrought Novice and Gregory Stapp's compassionate Dansker.

Ian Robertson's male chorus was made for this opera. The restored scene for Vere and chorus that ends Act One of the original (here divided exactly in half into two acts, rather than four), and the frightening way those loyal men turn on Vere with guttural growls after Billy is hanged, were simply electrifying. ▼

www.sfopera.com

Bernstein

◀ page 32

ries, Deutsche Grammophon [DG] has just released a two-CD set featuring music heard in the documentaries. Bernstein conducts his own compositions as well as Ives, Tchaikovsky, Copland, Mahler, Hindemith and Britten. While the only works represented in their entirety are Copland's "Fanfare for the Common Man" and Ives' "The Unanswered Question," there are two delicious bonuses, performances by Sarah Vaughan ("I Feel Pretty") and the Oscar Peterson Trio ("Something's Coming" from *West Side Story*). Sony's *Leonard Bernstein: A Total Embrace* three-CD *The Composer and The Conductor* sets, issued last year, offer complementary fare. Also, Kultur International Films just released Bernstein's groundbreaking *New York Philharmonic Young People's Concerts* on DVD.

Equally important is the recent *Chichester Psalms* conducted by Bernstein protégé Marin Alsop (Naxos), and upcoming multidisc *Bernstein Edition* boxes from DG. The six-CD set *The Americans: Complete Recordings* (DG) offers all of Lenny's later recordings of works by American composers, including the first release of Lukas Foss' *Song of Songs*. Gay composers include Barber, Copland, Del Tredici, and Rorem.

Mass appeal

Harmonia Mundi has just re-

leased Bernstein's controversial *Mass* (1971), performed by Kent Nagano and the Deutsches Symphonie-Orchester. Exploring darkness and light, Bernstein's constant textual references to social issues seem more relevant today than in 1971. "What is real, Lord, I don't know," might as well be commentary on today's political scene. May the line "You may plan to rule forever, but you never do somehow" prove prophetic. With digs at imperialism, birth control, destruction of species, and organized religion, all that's missing is a reference to priestly child abuse to make *Mass* copy for tonight's 6 o'clock news.

It still seems unsettling to hear *West Side Story*'s Jets dashing through the Cathedral, but America's unholy mix of fundamentalism, politics, and Hollywood production values reveal Bernstein's *Mass* to be more prescient than profane. Listen to Bernstein's stunning 1977 *Songfest*, which includes both an anti-racist duet juxtaposing Langston Hughes' "I, Too, Sing America" with June Jordan's "Okay Negroes" and a gorgeous bass solo paean to man-man love, set to the words of Walt Whitman.

If you can get your hands on the NY Philharmonic's 10-disc *Bernstein Live* set, by all means do so. Then reflect on the glories of *West Side Story*, the gay glitter of *Candide*, the pizzazz of *On the Town* and the revelations offered by *Leonard Bernstein: An American Life*, to begin to understand how much we owe the man. ▼

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Bye-bye, Bush

◀ Arts cover

for his uncanny impersonation of GW. The actor has studied with the SF Mime Troupe since 1991, and has been a company member since 1997. He's played George II in the Mime Troupe's *1600 Transylvania Avenue* and Mr. Smith Goes to Obscuristan.

This weekend will see a double-header of Bush-bashing theatrical events as the Brava Theatre Center premieres *Laura's Bush: a satirical satyr play* by pseudonymous playwright Jane Martin. Glick will also put in an appearance as GW in this show, which is being presented by 10 activist theatres across the country.

Glick says that the key to getting his Bush impersonation down is not just the man's voice and mannerisms, but his attitude. "He really believes what he's say-

ing, so instead of playing him as a complete dunce, I try to capture that measure of complete honesty.

"I do him as more of a character than a caricature. Bush is very sincere about his own beliefs and crusade," says Glick. "But the fact that it's a crusade is what's scary."

The actor also acknowledges how much we need comic relief in times like these. "A lot of people are worried about this election, and this is a really good opportunity to be in a community of like-minded people, interact with these issues, and laugh. I'm very excited to be there and let people boo at me. People really enjoy it — it's almost like therapy."

Geduldig agrees that there's a lot to worry about today. "How much closer can this country get to Nazi Germany in another four years, with 1,200 Middle-Easterners being rounded up without due process? I was reading how much Europe wants Bush out of office,"

she says. "Maybe Europe should invade us and restore democracy to the United States."

In addition to making sure that everyone you know is registered and votes, Geduldig says that the best tonic for today's political worries is to take time to "stop reading and bitching, and laugh. Get energized for the next three weeks, to send George Bush back to Crawford."

The George Bush Going Away Party, partial proceeds benefit Central Committee for Conscientious Objectors' Military Out of Our Schools Campaign, takes place Sat., Oct. 9, 8 p.m. at the Herbst Theatre, 401 Van Ness Ave., SF. Tickets (\$22.50-\$27.50), call (415) 392-4400, or visit cityboxoffice.com. More info: koshercomedy.com.

Laura's Bush by Jane Martin is at Brava Theatre Center, 2781 24th St., SF, Oct. 6-31, Wed.-Sat., 8 p.m., Sun. at 3 p.m. Tickets (\$14-\$18), call (415) 647-2822, or visit brava.org. ▼

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Anita Cocktail (Leanne Borghesi) performs as Barbara Bush at The George Bush Going Away Party at the Herbst Theatre.

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Next up: Int'l Leather Sir/boy

by Mister Marcus

What used to be the International Mr. Drummer and Drummer boy contest, as you all know, has been changed to International Leather Sir and International Leather boy. Anywhere from 11 to 13 regions will gather this weekend at the Suncoast Resort (www.suncoastresort.com) in St. Petersburg, Florida for the competition that will name the successors to Int'l. Leather Sir Mike Russell and Int'l. Leather boy "Titus".

Suncoast proprietor Tom Kiple assures me that all is in readiness for the weekend, the judges are in place and a myriad of events will be presented for weekend package holders. Barring any "natural" weather disasters, it should be a fun weekend, as Holy Cows from around the world will gather once again to welcome two more leather titleholders.

A big thanks you to both Mike and Titus boy who have made their presence known and helped with myriad fundraisers during the past 12 months. I'll be there judging, so you'll be the first to know the results right here next week. If you're one of those "last-minute" types, rooms are still available at the host hotel and contest only tickets will be available.

IML 2005 roster grows

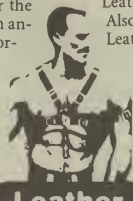
At my deadline, the list of IML 2005 contenders has grown since last we met on these pages. Last Saturday, Oct. 2nd, that spunky Brian Kent, Mr. NY Eagle Leather 2004, passed his title and the sash to Robert Valin in Mahanattan as a record crowd gathered for the contest and the Eagle's 34th anniversary celebration. A gorgeous anniversary pin was given out at the party on Friday night, with a sumptuous buffet and co-owner Derek Denton was his charming self as always.

The contest on Saturday night was jam-packed as three men vied for the title. When it was all over, Stephen Morris was the second runner-up, Robert Parisi was the first runner-up and Robert Valin will advance to compete for the IML 2005 title next May. All three are NYC residents. Mr. Valin is a strapping 6'1" hunk weighing in at some 215 Lbs. He should do well at IML.



Robert Menichetti is Mr. Leather Europe 2004, chosen at the ECMC contest in Helsinki, Finland. He is from Belgium and will be among the IML Class of 2005 next May.

Other contests with winners not headed to IML that have happened were the Mr. Double L Leather contest in Rehoboth Beach, Delaware the weekend of September 17-18 where Steven Ranger of Washington, DC copped the title and will advance to compete at the Mid-Atlantic Leather contest in January; Also, the new Mr. New Jersey Leather Tom Mead will advance to compete at MAL as well.



Leather

Many competitions are coming your way in the next few months so stay tuned for the results from the Mr. Oklahoma Leather (Tulsa), the Leatherman of Color (Chicago), Mr. Central California (Fresno). Also, Mr. and Ms. New Mexico Leather (Albuquerque), Mr. Ottawa Leather and Toronto Mr. Leather, Mr. and Ms. Santa Clara County Leather (San Jose), Mr. and Ms. Maryland Leather (Baltimore) Mr. Chicago Leather (January), and Mr. Cell Block Leather (February). You'll be the

first to get the results here.

While the leather/BDSM community makes strides in glory and fundraising, 49'ers fans are dejected about this season's 0 & 4 record as of this past Sunday night. But stick with it. Andy Rose is not too happy with the Steelers' record either, but he's a die-hard fan.

The Castro Lions are throwing a beer/soda bust and Halloween costume contest at the Eagle Tavern on Saturday night, October 30, and of course there's the Exotic/Erotic Ball for the daring among us. The usual madness will prevail in the Castro, so the outlook isn't all that bad.

At my deadline, not a peep has been heard about the Golden Gate Guards "trailer trash" weekend run to Camp Mendocino this past weekend. I know photos were taken of the usual debauchery, but no one would dare submit any to me! Oh those closets still remain shut tight in some quarters!

See you all next week. In the meantime, to get leather news from around the world, be sure to click on www.L LeatherPage.com on a regular basis. ▼

EVENTURES IN LEATHER

Weekend, October 7-11

Queer Biker Invasion of Death Valley all weekend, but the annual visit to Zabriskie Point is cancelled due to highway complications.

Pacific Friction weekend in Seattle for leather/bdsm women, but no details at deadline.

Los Angeles Erotic Art Weekend & Fair at Plummer's Park. For info: www.tomoffinlandfoundation.org.

In Vancouver, British Columbia, VASM (Vancouver Activists in S&M) celebrate 22nd anniversary with dungeon party on Saturday, brunch on Sunday. Try: www.vasdm.bc.ca.

Saturday, October 9

Mr. and Ms. Gay San Francisco Pageant at Cathedral Hill Hotel (Geary at Van Ness Ave) at 1800. Tickets \$20. Try: www.imperialcouncilsf.org.

In Chicago, Onyx presents Leatherman of Color

at 2200 at Touché Bar. Winner advances to compete at IML 2005.

Alameda County Leather Corps 11th anniversary at the Turf Club in Hayward, from 1800 to 1900. Dinner at 1900. Induction of new officers. By invitation or club overlay.

Weekend, October 15-17

Fresno grabs the spotlight for the Mr. Central California Leather contest. Dan Hogue steps aside for a successor. Try www.kofmfresno.com.

Mr. Oklahoma Leather contest in Tulsa at Club Maverick. Keith Hunt steps aside for a newbie. Check out www.tulsaleather.com.

Rio Grande Weekend in Albuquerque, New Mexico, with "Albuquerque Shines" and the choosing Mr. and Ms. New Mexico Leather at The Ranch. For more info, email cheshlth@aol.com.

PORN

My guys, wild & free

by John F. Karr

A guy just wants to have fun with his dick. So pity the poor str8 boy. Once past, what is it, 10 or 11 years old, when the most wondrous penis possibilities are just becoming manifest, pecker fun's the one thing he just can't share with his buddies without being crushed by impending homosexualities. That's probably what makes so many guys overripe to cut loose and shake it all around for the cameras of *Guys Gone Wild*.

This all-male counterpart to the notorious boob-exposing *Girls Gone Wild* catches rowdy dudes during spring break at Cancun, Daytona Beach, and other beer-and-testosterone-washed resorts where the overeager guys hardly wait for the all-girl camera crew's bit of cajoling before showing off their bits. And not just showing: they got 'em swinging and a-swaying and flappin' up, down and all around. The cockamamie antics of these guys make GGGW the party DVD of the year. It's a mix of stupid frat-boy antics and truly splendid hotties that'll start you out laughing and drooling, and leave you amazed by the sheer sociological wonderment of it all. Str8 boys: they're soooo exotic. Just where do they learn to hold their fingers in those crooked configurations, as they shout that peculiar, chesty howl "Whoooooooo!" that you hear in stadiums and arenas?

It's obvious from the number of guys sporting shaved crotches in GGGW that it's not just gay boys who spend quality time with their dicks. It makes me wonder, though. Do str8 dudes talk about it with the other guys? Have shaving parties? Share shaving tips? Although the idea excites me no end, I doubt it. One show-off in GGGW becomes shy only when he



Pecker fun and cockamamie antics galore feature in *Guys Gone Wild*.

realizes who might be in the hallway the camera crew is coaxing him to streak. "There's too many guys out there," he exclaims. "Guys are seeing me naked!"

How do the guys defuse the homo-ness of showing off their cocks with their buddies around? One pair has macho props, wear-

ing cowboy hats and

tossing a football back

and forth as they

jump on their beds. A

pair of huskies don't

mind oiling up each

other's pecs, but

won't flash together. One

dude who

lets his

dick dangle while

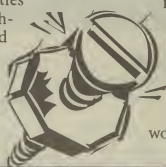
his buddy

watches rationalizes with some

freestyle rapping: "Guys are whip-

ping out their dicks/but they're

still thinking about the chicks."



Karnal Knowledge

the answer to "Can you flop it around for me?" is usually "Yes" (and is the reason we're watching). One cowboy enjoys his freedom so much he can't stop flappin' it about while merely chatting with the girls. He realizes he's gone too far only after brandishing some toy pistols. "I'm not even a sexual object anymore," he laments. "I'm a comedic prop!"

He's one of the few with that sort of smarts. The nine rubes who don g-strings and cock socks and swill beer as they conga through the hotel lobby certainly take no notice of the stereotypes they're upholding. But they're not pretty, and have probably long understood their position as jesters. The show's largest quotient, however, are princes, and need no excuse. These strikingly pretty, ripped, solidly rumped and sometimes surprisingly well-hung men are ready to be appreciated, and share their beauty with modest generosity. And lots of dick-wagging.

Guys Gone Wild is hot and hilarious, and though it's only an hour, its effect hasn't lessened in the three times I've watched it. I can't wait to get my hands on the next two upcoming volumes of *Guys Gone Wild*. www.guys-gonewild.com ▼

Flip flops

The affable girls behind the camera skillfully keep things casual as they elicit the boys' responses. "Hump the floor!" they encourage. Run naked down the hall! Can you stand on your head naked? The answer to "Do you know any cock tricks?" is usually "No" (which I don't believe), but

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Skirt chasing

by Robert Julian

Women I Have Dressed (and Undressed) by Arnold Scaasi; Scribner, \$25

The most important thing to keep in mind when considering designer Arnold Scaasi's most recent release, is that the author still plies his trade in Manhattan. Scaasi is actively engaged in creating couture designs for the rich and famous, and therefore, you can safely assume that a great deal of smoke will be blown. Scaasi fawns and flatters, never revealing anything critical about his clients; certainly, no tales are told that might cause a patron to seek design counsel on friendlier shores.

The designer's childhood, spent primarily in Montreal, is related briefly in the opening pages of *Women I Have Dressed*, and there is real potential in his personal journey. Born to an upper-middle-class Jewish family, young Arnold Isaacs had a flair for fashion from his earliest years. After some world travels and serious

study in both Montreal and Paris, young Arnold reversed the spelling of his last name and Scaasi was born. In record time, he got a job designing clothes in Manhattan, and swiftly moved to the head of the class in the late 1950s. Ready-to-wear collections, couture originals, and costumes for stage and screen followed.

Scaasi writes most engagingly about Joan Crawford, Barbra Streisand, and Claudette Colbert, providing prose snapshots that are memorable. But most of his recollections are either superficial or too focused on the materials, fabrics, and feathers he used for individual creations. Most of the society doyennes who decorate the pages of *Women I Have Dressed* have no cultural currency for the average reader. But things really get interesting when Scaasi writes about the Bush women, Barbara and Laura.

A noticeably Republican tone sets in when he first discusses his designs for Mamie Eisenhower, but it is Scaasi's flattery of Barbara Bush that sends his credibility right into the toilet. Dubya's bovine mother is described as "an

elegant lady" and "not overweight and not really large-large... she was quite well proportioned." Right. And when Scaasi is invited by Mrs. Bush's secretary to stay at the White House the night before the First Lady donates her Scaasi inaugural gown to the Smithsonian, he asks if he and Parker Ladd, his domestic partner of several decades, can have the Lincoln bedroom. The room request is honored, but Scaasi is told by Barbara Bush's secretary, "Parker can stay at my house."

The author has no problem whatsoever with this amazing insult. He seems incapable of grasping the second-class status conferred on his relationship by the separate lodgings; a jubilant Scaasi has nothing but nice things to say about the entire Bush clan. If he has any doubts about where he really stands with them, he and Ladd need only apply for a marriage license. Or Scaasi can call his more recent Bush client, Laura, and ferret out her feelings on Constitutional amendments banning gay marriage.

Ambition can be a terrible thing. ▼

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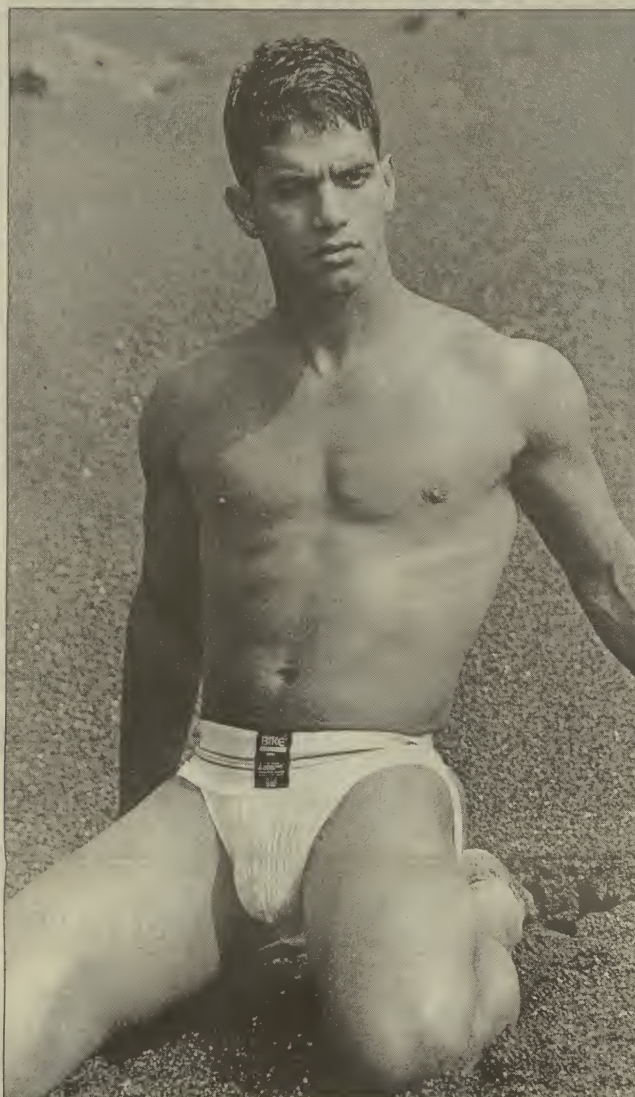
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BAR TALK



PARTING GLANCES

SF Renaissance Faire 8/29

You - cute guy in black Frameline T-shirt, who helped Juggler. I was in shorts, orange sleeved shirt. Never said hello, then had to go. Want to discuss faire/movies? ☎ 71386

Subway to Castro 8/26 10PM

You: Stuck-up, red-haired slut cruising seven/eight dudes in train. Me: One of those dudes. Which? You have to guess, you hot-sexy-filthy-disgusting pig! Love, Demura. ☎ 71388

Do I Know You?

You - nice, dark haired Tom out walking. Me - tall, blu/bln, tongue-tied. You came into my Corbett apt. lobby after bumping car in driveway. Second chance? ☎ 71394

N Judah Sept. 8 1:30pm

You: D & G blue top and cool GA sunglasses. Me: Dark suit. Would like to meet you - dinner sometime? ☎ 71397

Pharmacy In Kaiser Hospital

Geary St. - Fri. 09/17 - Around 6pm. We locked eyes. You in drop-off line - Me waiting in pick-up line. Again caught your eyes passing you on my way out. Me - glasses - jeans - holding gray jacket. Still interested? ☎ 71399

24 Hr Van Ness Gym: Tues/Thurs You: Nice Asian, Glasses; Me: Tall, White guy, red tank, grey shorts. Occasionally smiled and said Hi. Sorry we didn't meet. Coffee? ☎ 71400

Parting Glances 9/25/04

Kaiser Pharmacy - 9-24-04. We met parking elevator - You, 4th floor. Me, 2nd. Did not have a chance to ask name or phone number. Please call me. ☎ 71401

Tues 9-28 2pm Muni M Outbound I got on at Powell. You sitting by center door. Short sleeve shirt, 'stache. Me Tall 'stache, suede jacket - got off at Church. Felt energy in our glances. ☎ 71406

SEEKING RELATIONSHIP

Nice But Lonely In Santa Rosa

Hi boys! Where are you? I am looking for you. Me: 50, 5'6", 180 lbs. Want to show you & me a good time. Espero tenerle en mi brazos con amor. ☎ 71385

I May Be 66 5'5" 130# But Can

get it up. Gray hair clean shaven seek black men over 40 for more than sex. No strings attached. Height/weight unimportant. Let's get down to it in the Haight. ☎ 71393

Looking For A Friend And More!

GWM, 42, 5'9", 150. I like to hold hands in public, kiss in private, and cuddle after sex. I enjoy reading, writing, and anything related to the visual/performing arts! ☎ 71408

SEEKING ADVENTURE

Hey Sacramento Oral Bottom Boy

is seeking those real men who travel through Sacramento on business, etc... Let me get on my knees & deep throat your tool and ride my eager hungry tight pink hole. Blow, stretch, grind, my hungry hole & mouth. I'm here to please! Bring a buddy and repeat often. Me: 37yr, white, very handsome, swimmers build, flat stomach, tight smooth butt & W/E. My clean discreet place. Days. Yes, Sir. ☎ 71382

Spank Your Butt

Hot, masculine top, 38, 5'11" 175#, seeks well built bottom with nice ass for over the knee spanking, role playing and plowing your ass. ☎ 71383

ABC - Asian, Black Caucasian

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I like Black or Latino Men

White male 48, healthy, HIV+, seeking 40 to 55 top black or Latino man, HIV+. Looking for fun, companionship and sex. The bigger, the better. ☎ 71390

Funky Men

WM 47, 6', 160lbs. I'm looking to get together with really funky guys - homeless guys, hobos, unshaven, sweaty, smelly, etc. - for hot, passionate, sensual times. Also interested in others who enjoy this scene. Over 40 a plus. No pain, S & M. ☎ 71391

SFDowntown GayMale Lkg for Exam

Hello. My name is Joseph. I'm 61 yrs old 5'7" 150 lbs Lkg for a gay male to exam my prostate. Want to be waken for you. ☎ 71396

Very Funky Men

WM 47, 6', 160lbs. I'm looking to meet really funky guys - Hobo's, homeless men, unshaven, sweaty, smelly, etc. - for hot, passionate sensual times. Also interested in others who enjoy this scene. Over 40 a plus. No S & M or pain. ☎ 71395

Bubble Butt Bum?????

...or outdoor Bohemian??? Homeless dude, uncut, hairy, shaved head, 13EE sandals, for closeness, scenes, Boss! Tie me, cuddle me, take me to the fair! English/Welsh, hazel eyes. ☎ 71398

Downtown Oakland area Black Gent

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I Aim To Please

Affectionate masculine, endowed black ex-marine deeply turned on by old men with smelly foreskin. (Big noses, hands, feet, ears, eyes) Pipe, Cigar smokers & suspenders are also turn ons. ☎ 71384

Erotic Cockfighting

WM, 5'9", 160 lbs, ISO trim opponents 21-35 for nude combat with few rules. Be clean, hairy and endowed! ☎ 71402

J/O and Photo Fun!

GWM, 5'11" 175# Goodlooking masculine and hung. Likes to pose and j/o for your pleasure. I'm into mirrors, videos, nude beaches and love to fuck. Black guys a plus! ☎ 71403

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Volcanic activity

by Sweet Lips

Twenty-four years ago, I was having drinks at Steve Suss' Embers/Rafters lounge in Portland, and it looked like it was snowing outside, but in fact Mt. St. Helens was erupting! Steve graciously found us masks to wear so we could get back to our hotel without asphyxiating. That mountain had quite an orgasm! Now look at all the voyeurs crowding around for a glimpse of the next big spurt. Just don't swallow, girls!

Speaking of eruptions, San Francisco's Court of Love, Family, Commitment & Community takes center stage on Saturday, October 16, when Emperor XVI Steve Rasher and the San Francisco



Cocktail Hour

Council of Emperors present *Emperors' Night Out - Norte de Tijuana*, presided over by His Most Imperial Majesty Emperor Fernando Robles. Bus tickets are \$10 each, available at any of the stops along the route, including the Metro Bar and Restaurant (6 p.m.), Ginger's Trois (7:45 p.m.), Club Rendez-Vous (9 p.m.) and winding up at Marlena's (10:45 p.m.). This should be a fun-filled evening with lots of laughs, so be sure to climb aboard for the ride!

Up in Portland during the weekend of October 22-24, the Portland Coronation will take place at The Crystal Ballroom. The Imperial Sovereign Rose Court is known for hosting fabulous weekends, and this year's theme is *Matches Made in Heaven: Famous Marriages Through History*. The affair will be presided over by Rose Emperor 30 Scotty Devore Foxx and Rose Empress 46 Lotta Marie Liquor. Tickets are \$35. For details, contact Emperor Scotty &

Empress Lotta at (503) 887-6044, or Empress Poison Marie Waters at (503) 916-4958.

Way over in Eastern Canada this Saturday, October 9, the Imperial Court of Toronto will be hosting *A Night at the Imperial Zoo - Show Your Animal Magnetism*, presided over by Regent Emperor Tom Ivison and Empress Candice. The festivities take place at the Marriott Bloor-Yorkville Hotel (call 1 (800) 228-9290, ask for "Imperial Court of Toronto" rate). For details, ring Empress Candice at (416) 921-5102 or Emperor XIV Chris Holmgren at (416) 467-1824.

Somewhat closer to home, on October 30, the Imperial Sovereign Court of Spokane, Washington, will be hosting *The Finale of the Reign of Flash, Class and Attitude*,

presided over by Emperor XXVIII Mark Alan Surreal and Empress XXXII Selena Surreal Blaque. The event happens at the Mirabeau Park Hotel, 1100 N. Sullivan Rd., Spokane Valley, Washington. Tickets are \$30. Contact Emperor Mark at (509) 735-7262, Empress XXXII Selena at (509) 535-9719, or Clyda (Board Secretary) at (509) 533-1903.

Well, for the first time since my accident in January, I finally made it down to my old haunt, Club Rendez-Vous on Polk St. My caretaker Steve Pollack wheeled me down there on Monday night for a few beers with the very popular and handsome "Little Mikey," who showed us a very welcome time. Thanks for a great night out, guys!

On the birthday front, October 20 marks the occasion for my dear friend Jay (Ethel) Noonan, and you know he got that name because he can sing just like Ethel Merman (well, kind of). ▼

Mill Valley fest

◀ page 33

son as a man struggling to get out from under the shadow of a cold, domineering father. In the process, he created a surrogate family among his young researchers that became inspiring if more than a little incestuous. Peter Sarsgaard is electric as the young colleague who seduces the good doctor while challenging his belief that human beings can ever be studied with scientific detachment. (*Regency, 10/8, 12*)

Red Diaper Baby A special treat for the thousands of theatre-lovers who've caught Josh Kornbluth in the act of public confession. Kornbluth simultaneously conjures up the monologue mojo of the late Spalding Gray and his own radical teacher father to give a painfully real and amazingly sensual account of a young Jewish boy's realization that he may not belong anywhere, including his Dad's beloved Soviet Union. (*Rafael, 10/15*)

Gloria Fans of John Cassavetes' incendiary cauldron of human emotions that gave birth to the American independent cinema movement may find this tale of a gangster's ex-girlfriend fleeing the mob with a cute urchin in tow a bit conventional by the director's own standards. But rest assured, Gena Rowlands (it's the showcase film in this year's tribute to this splendid actress) gives a ballsy reading to this



Josh Kornbluth makes a public confession in *Red Diaper Baby*.

tough lady, which makes her kinetic misadventures as compelling as more standard Cassavetes fare. Particularly effective is a scene where Gloria has a reunion with her Mafia boyfriend that feels like a Papal audience. Rowlands in attendance for Q&A. (*Rafael, 10/14*)

Gums and Noses Among the fest's delightful surprises is this dizzy, dark comedy that starts off as a satire of the South African ad business (with some truly rude cocaine jokes) and suddenly takes a darker, wackier turn as a critique of the bumpy road to freedom for a newly chaotic multinational society, where everybody wants to make a deal. (*Regency, 10/13, Rafael, 10/16*) ▼

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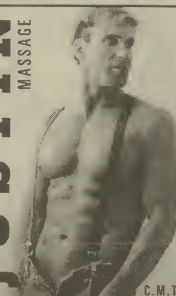
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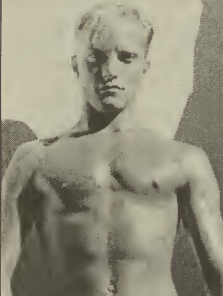
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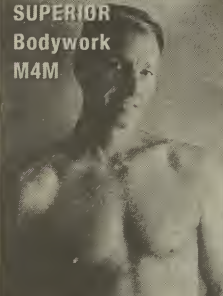
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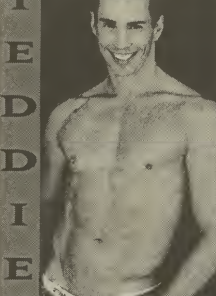
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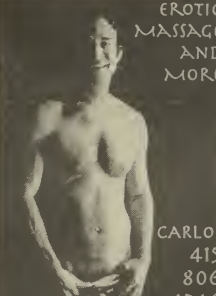
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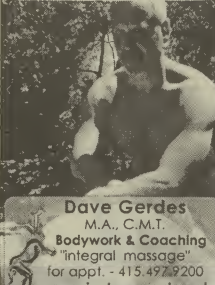
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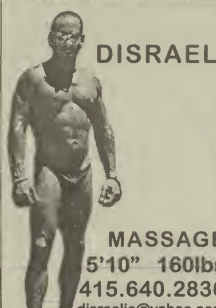
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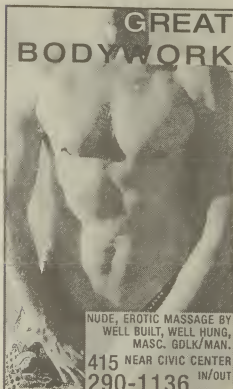
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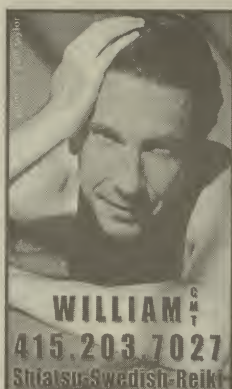
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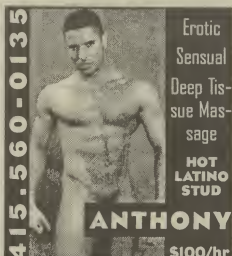
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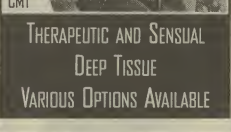


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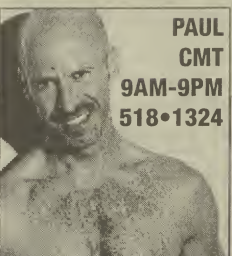
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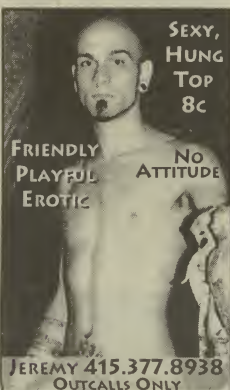
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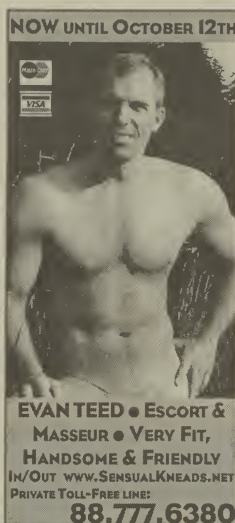
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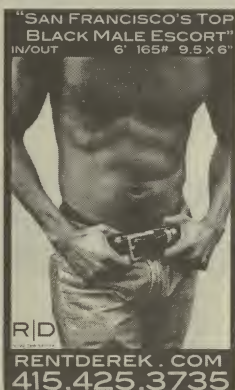
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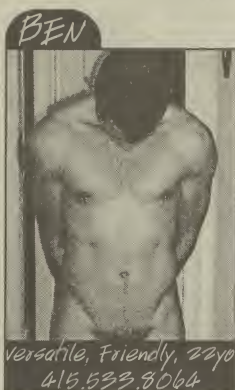
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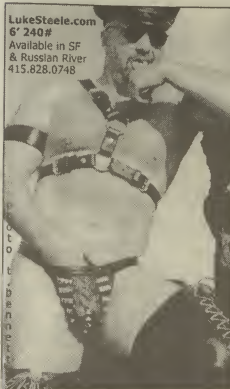
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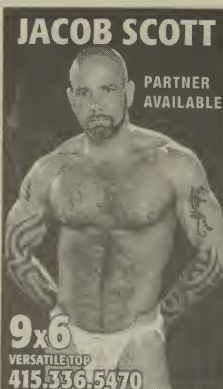
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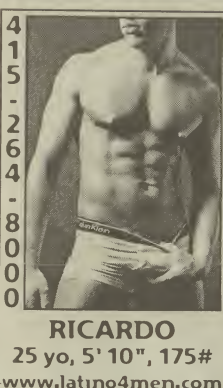
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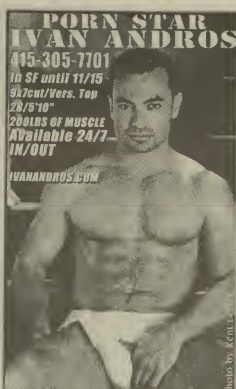
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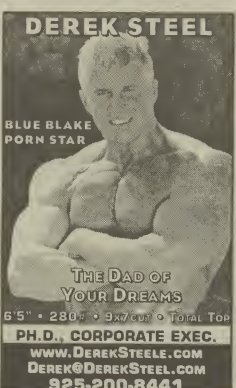
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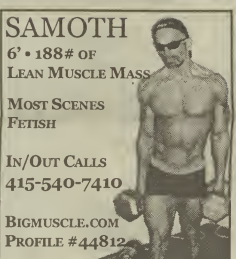
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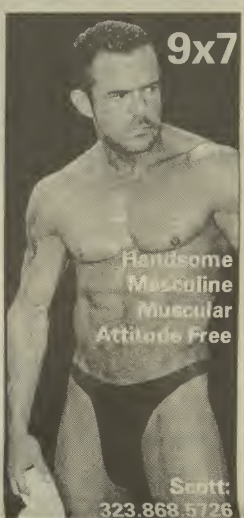
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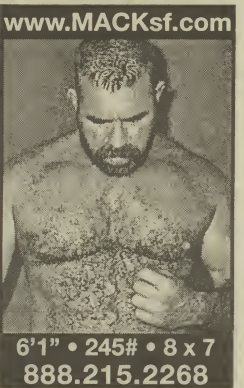
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
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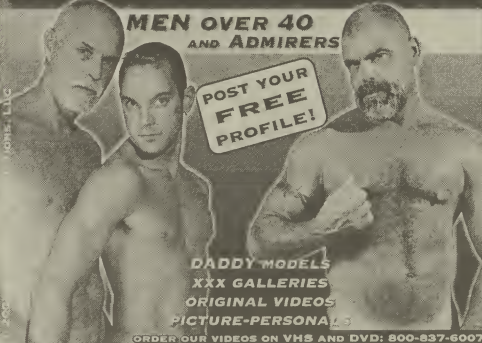
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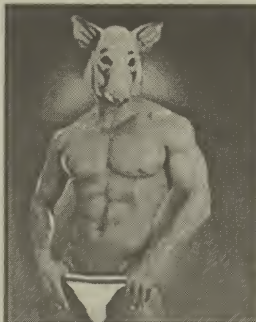
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